

Mac FORMAT

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TODAY**

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from MobileMe



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INSIDE!**
36-page guide to
the best iOS apps & kit

> Mac > iPad > iPhone

> Issue 248 June 2012

MACFORMAT ESSENTIALS

**132 PAGES
OF ADVICE!**

The UK's no.1 Apple magazine

**Slideshow
in iMovie**

Bring your still photos to life



**Secrets of
QuickTime**

Use OS X's hidden video editor



**Web-based
Mac access**

Control your Mac via the internet



**THE LATEST KIT
REVIEWED**

- > Altec Lansing inAir 5000
- > Canon PowerShot G1 X
- > Thunderbolt Duo 4TB

AND MUCH MORE!



Make your Mac roar!

Turn OS X Lion into a desktop king



TUTORIALS



Melody makers

Your guide to laying tracks in iOS



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At the heart of the image



Welcome...

to MacFormat, the UK's No. 1 Mac magazine

>> SUBSCRIBE!



Subscribe to *MacFormat* and pay **just £3.95 per issue** plus get an Acme Made laptop sleeve. **Turn to page 30 to sign up now!**

Hello and welcome to another packed issue of *MacFormat*, the UK's best-selling Mac magazine! This month we've got a great guide to getting even more from OS X 10.7 Lion, some essential tips for making the most of your Apple TV and a guide to upgrading to iCloud for MobileMe and .Mac account holders. These two latter services will be switched off at the end of June, but don't worry - iCloud is here and you can upgrade for free!

If you picked up your copy of *MacFormat* on the high street this month then you'll notice that it comes complete with a free 36-page sampler of *Tap! magazine*, bringing you the best apps and kit for your iPad or iPhone. Print subscribers will be able to pick up their free PDF copy of the supplement by logging into the Subscriber area of www.macformat.co.uk and digital subscribers on Apple Newsstand will find it appended to the end of their issue.

And if you use *Safari* just because it came installed on your Mac, you might be interested to see the result of our group test - not all browsers are made equal!

I'll see you again on 19 June when we'll be taking a look at all the ways you can share things from your Mac or iPad, with family, friends - or the rest of the world. See you then!



Graham Barlow, Editor-in-Chief
graham.barlow@futurenet.com
twitter.com/MacFormat



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Tech Champion



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Ian can't wait to get into Creative Suite 6 p86

Tim Hardwick

Apps Guru



"I'm really looking forward to Mountain Lion, due late summer, but in the meantime I'm eking out the hidden power of OS X 10.7."
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Creative Pro



"I really can't imagine domestic life without my Apple TV now - it's certainly my most used Apple accessory."
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Apple Expert



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Turn OS X Lion into a desktop king



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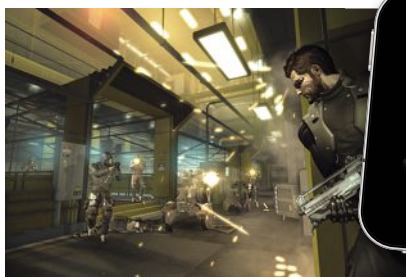


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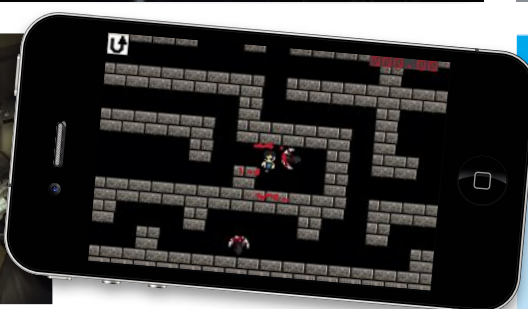
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>> WHY NOT ALSO TRY?

We've launched a new magazine app for the iPad. Search for Tap! on the Store or head to www.tapmag.co.uk/app to find out more!



Start up

► NEWS & OPINION ► INTERVIEWS ► GADGETS ► LETTERS

Stage is set for Mac Trojan war

Malicious software is now starting to pose a real threat for Mac users

Mac users are facing new threats in the form of Java-based Trojans that attempt to subvert systems in order to send information about your computer to remote servers.

The threat first appeared in the form of the Flashback malware, which appeared earlier this year. This was followed by Flashback.S, which also attempts to disable your Mac's security updating mechanism.

Once installed it contacts the malware authors, who turn infected Macs into members of a 'botnet', taking control of infected machines and harvesting personal data. A Trojan Horse works by convincing you to run it. In the case of the Flashback attack, malware makers attempted to trick Mac users into running the software by disguising it as an installer package for Flash Player. At its height, over 600,000 Macs worldwide were affected.

These warnings were made a little more credible by Apple's initial delay responding to the Java flaw that made Flashback possible. While other operating systems received patches against this flaw in March, Apple's fix didn't ship until early April.

Apple took the threat seriously and developed software to detect and remove the malware from infected machines.



© iStock.com

Users need to protect their Macs in order to stop malware being as big a problem as it is on the PC.

"In addition to the Java vulnerability, the Flashback malware relies on computer servers hosted by the malware authors to perform many of its critical functions. Apple is working with ISPs to disable this command and control network," Apple said on its website.

» MORE NEWS

For even more on the Mac, iPod and iPhone, visit www.macformat.co.uk

Apple released patches for Lion and OS X 10.6, but failed to protect Mac users on OS X 10.5 or earlier. Such users can protect themselves against the malware by disabling Java in their browser preferences.

However, the company's late move to secure its platform didn't

» APPLE IN PICTURES / Dutch opulence



» AMSTERDAM APPLE STORE

This stunning staircase is at the heart of Apple's latest international retail store, and part of Amsterdam's historic Hirsch building.

© Apple Inc.

escape the notice of security researchers. "Why Apple did not deploy fixes before Mac users were targeted is unclear," said Chet Wisniewski, a security researcher at Sophos. "Fortunately, once it became a problem the company responded quickly."

The attack, swiftly followed by a second similar, quickly defended outbreak, Flashback.S, follows last year's MacDefender (also known as MacProtector and MacSecurity) attacks. In that instance Apple was also seen to be slow in dealing with the threat, though the company did eventually release a software patch.

Subsequent to the malware attack, security researchers identified 20% of Macs carry Windows malware, which users then spread to others. 2.7% of Macs were already infected by forms of Mac malware, including FakeAV, RSPlug and Jahlav.

Fortunately, there are several steps Mac users can take to protect their machines. So far, every threat to this platform has required that either miscreants have access to the Mac, or that a user is tricked into installing software from dubious

sources. Common sense says Mac users shouldn't install software unless they are convinced they know where it comes from. Other steps include installation of virus checkers from developers including Sophos or Intego. Users should:

- Uncheck *Safari's* 'Open "safe" files after downloading' option in the General pane of its Preferences.
- Avoid clicking email links unless you know who it comes from.
- Avoid downloading software from anywhere except a reputable source.
- Never install unknown installation files.
- Avoid clicking on images unless you know where they've come from.

- Never share your personal details or passwords with any app, website or email unless you trust who it comes from.

While the outcry over the attack likely outweighed the severity of the threat, the incident shows that the Mac is a more viable platform for malware makers. They are attracted by Apple's growing market share, and attacks like these are set to continue, meaning Mac users must at least be more vigilant than before. ●

» APPLE IN NUMBERS

97%

Number of tablets used in enterprise which are iPads

Apple talk

Who's saying what?

> Tim Cook

www.apple.com

"Anything can be forced to converge. Trade-offs at the end of the day don't please anyone. You can converge a toaster and a refrigerator, but it won't please anyone."

Cook dismisses the idea of a laptop/tablet hybrid.

> Steve Wozniak

www.woz.org

"Think different. The way things have been done before, that's like a formula, you hardly ever step back. What if it were all different? Sometimes that leads to a much better solution."

Steve Wozniak explains how Apple works.

> Sergey Brin

www.google.com

"There's a lot to be lost. For example, all the info in apps - that data is not crawlable by web crawlers. You can't search it."

Google co-founder wants the internet to open up.

> Linus Torvalds

www.torvalds-family.blogspot.co.uk

"I am a bit baffled by how nobody else seems to have done what Apple did with the MacBook Air - even several years after the first release, notebook makers continue to push ugly, clunky things."

The Linux creator really loves his Mac.

"The iPad's 'one thing at a time' approach really restricts what I can do."

Editor Graham's love of multi-tasking outweighs his love of iPad.



>> LIVING THE iLIFE

Irksome iPad issues

Graham Barlow



This month I've been hot desking it around the office floor as well as different buildings, but instead of lugging my Mac along for the ride I've been using my iPad as my main workhorse. Of course, to get down to the nitty gritty of editing magazine pages I've had to go back to the iMac at my desk, where I use *InDesign*, but since a lot of my work involves writing emails and text documents (such as this column), I thought using an iPad would do the job. So what's my verdict?

Well, I have three observations. First, my biggest frustration with the iPad was typing. I tried a few keyboard cases, and while they function as advertised, they come with smaller keyboards than we're accustomed to. But anything less than full-size keys will have you hammering them with frustration as you make mistake after mistake. In the end you learn to slow down and make less mistakes, but you do feel as if you're typing through mud. So, if you want a keyboard to go with your iPad, go for full-size (as found on Apple's iPad Keyboard Dock).

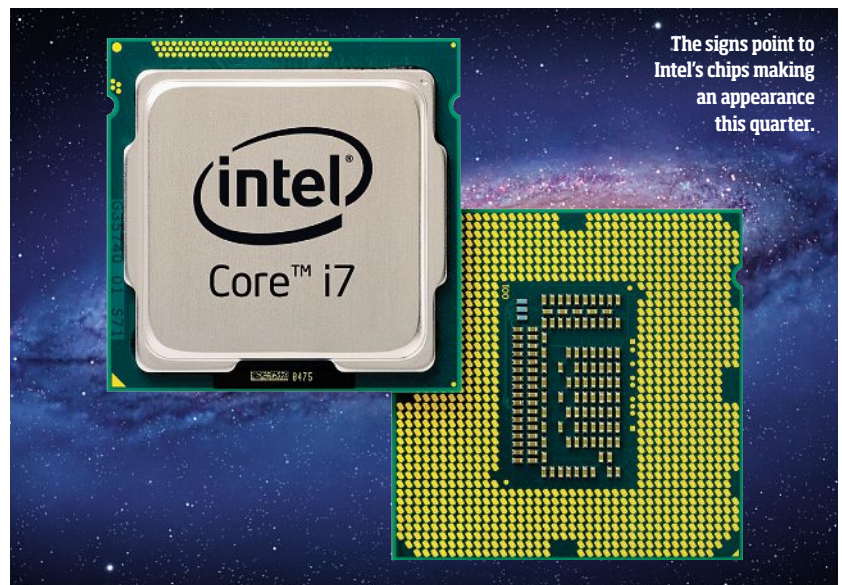
"These might sound like small niggles, but when it comes to the daily grind the devil is in the details"

My second bugbear was copy and paste. The iPad's touchscreen implementation is elegant, of course, but it's still fiddly and it slows you down. When I copy and paste text on a Mac I don't have to think about it, it just happens, because your hands don't need to leave the keyboard. On the iPad you need to carefully select text with your finger, then tap on the correct sequence of buttons. It works, but it interrupts your flow.

Finally, the iPad's 'one thing at a time' approach really restricted what I could do. Sure, I could dip in and out between *Safari*, *Mail* and *Calendar*, but I couldn't start writing one email to somebody, then start another one to somebody else before I'd finished the first, and I couldn't easily flip between open documents in *Pages*.

These might sound like small niggles, but when it comes to the daily grind the devil is in the details. For now I'm going to keep my iPad by my sofa and stick to my Mac for the serious stuff. ●

Graham Barlow's daily multi-tasking activity currently involves keeping up with *Game of Thrones*, while working on a secret project...



>> APPLE UPGRADES

Intel's Ivy Bridge chips are here

The quad-core processors due to ship soon

The Intel Corporation has finally delivered its new family of quad-core 'Ivy Bridge' processors. The new chips are already included within HP's latest PCs and are expected to feature within the next-generation of Macs, which Apple is likely to introduce within the current quarter.

Intel's Ivy Bridge processors are built on its latest 22nm, 3D 'tri-gate' transistor process. The chips deliver an approximate 20% performance increase in comparison to the Sandy Bridge range used inside current Macs. Their multimedia and graphics performance increases are far more impressive - high-def games and HD video transcoding can achieve a performance boost of up to 100%. USB 3.0 and Thunderbolt support also feature.

Within the range are chips that use less power and are expected to debut inside Apple's next-generation thinner, faster and lighter MacBook Pro and Air ranges. However, an Intel product road map leaked

in March suggested that the processor most likely to power the new mobile Macs won't ship until early June, making that the month to wait on if you're in the market for a new MacBook Pro. These are the processors you can also expect will drive future ultrabooks from various vendors.

The quad-core processors Intel's released so far are for desktops, all-in-ones, and high-end laptops. Intel has eight Core i7

processors: two for desktops, two for low power desktops and four for mobile computers. Intel also has five Core i5 processor models and intends releasing a new processor for ultrabooks later this year, perhaps as

soon as next month (June). That's a likely candidate for inclusion within new model MacBook Airs.

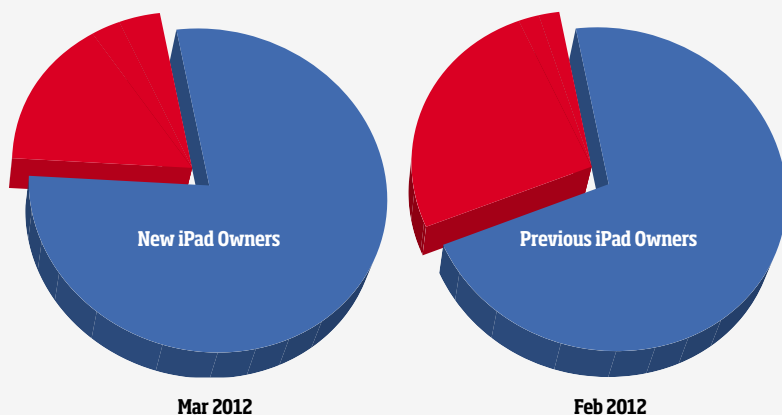
AppleInsider reported in February that Apple plans to revamp its 15-inch MacBook Pro first. More recent reports claim dwindling inventory of that model. Speculation suggests the iMac may also see an Ivy Bridge chip popped inside. ●

>> APPLE IN NUMBERS

34%

US high-school students
who own iPhones

>> APPLE IN NUMBERS / iPad satisfaction



The new iPad is even better than the last, according to the latest ChangoWave survey across the first US customers to get hold of one. In fact, customers are even more satisfied with the device, as this graphic shows.

>> KEY INFO

- Very satisfied
- Somewhat satisfied

>> APPLE ON A CASH ROLL

Apple thrives in Q2

Its 24th successive run of colossal growth

While iPod sales (7.7 million) declined, Apple remains the world's biggest digital music player vendor, says market-research institute GfK. Apple sold 35.1 million iPhones in the last quarter, 88% more than the same quarter last year. iPad sales climbed 151% to hit 11.8 million while it also sold 4 million Macs.

The business set a new record - revenue reached \$39.2 billion for a quarterly net profit of \$11.6 billion. Apple's business hit \$24.7 billion for \$6 billion in the same period last year.

"We're thrilled with sales of more than 35 million iPhones and almost 12 million iPads in the quarter," said Tim Cook. "The new iPad is off to a great start, and across the year you're going to see a lot more innovation that only Apple can deliver."

iPhone, iPad and iPod touch sales mean Apple has over 365 million iOS devices in

customer hands, which helped drive \$1.9 billion in iTunes sales. The company confirmed 94% of the Fortune 500 and 75% of the world's biggest 500 firms are testing or deploying iPads in their business.

Apple's results translated into a spike in stock price, with Goldman Sachs raising its target price to \$850. Topeka Capital Markets analyst, Brian White, said: "With

another quarter of big upside from Apple and trading at just nine times (ex-cash) our CY 2013 EPS estimate, combined with our expectations for accelerated momentum over the next year with the iPhone 5, an Apple TV, an

'iPad Mini' and a potential link with China Mobile, we believe stock has meaningful upside potential from current levels."

"Our quarter results drove \$14 billion in cashflow from operations," said Peter Oppenheimer, Apple's CFO. "Looking to the third quarter, we expect about \$34 billion." ●

>> APPLE IN NUMBERS

\$16,000

The amount of cash Apple adds to its stash every second

HOT OR NOT?

The latest word from the Apple rumour mill

HOT: New Macs making their way over by the summer

Though delayed by the recent release of Intel's Ivy Bridge processors, Apple's Mac update is surely just around the corner.

HOT: Apple preps 7-inch iPad

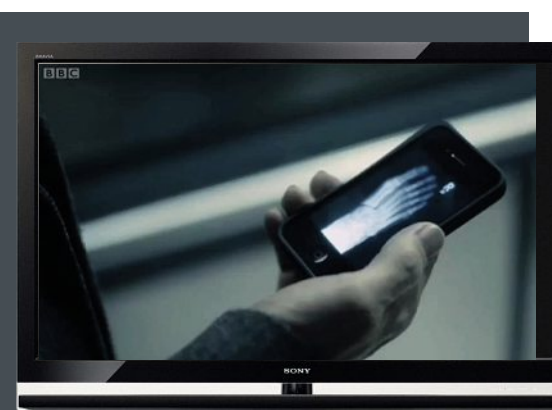
There's been lots of speculation Apple may introduce a 7-inch iPad. We're not totally convinced but it could be a good move to take on Amazon.

NOT: Hybrid MacBook/iPad

There's been talk Apple plans a device combining features from the iPad with those of a MacBook. Tim Cook dismissed the idea last month.

NOT: iPhone 5 ships in June

Apparently let slip by a Foxconn recruiter, the iPhone 5 ships in June - this seems hugely unlikely to us. Our bets are looking more at an October release date.



Apple on TV

The Mac is ready for its close-up



Fans of BBC series, *Silent Witness* can't have missed those banks of iMacs lurking in the background of Professor Leo Dalton's offices. Thanks to Roger Gilbert, aka Venomator.

Seen a Mac on TV? Email macformat@futurenet.com and tell us, just put 'telly' in the subject line.

>> ACROSS THE POND

Getting up to speed

Susie Ochs



The new iPad is the first Apple device to run on the 4G LTE network. Over here in the US, we must choose between Verizon's and AT&T's network, but both are compatible with a range of 3G networks around the world, which is handy, since 4G LTE isn't everywhere yet.

It's not even everywhere over here. My new iPad is an AT&T model, which gets 4G LTE in 35 of the largest US cities, including the Bay Area trifecta of San Francisco, Oakland, and San Jose. San Francisco, with its crazy hills and dense population, is spotty for cell phone coverage, but I've often found a strong signal.

And when I say 'strong', I'm not exaggerating. I've clocked download speeds of up to 53Mbps. The maximum theoretical throughput of 4G LTE is around 73Mbps, meaning 53Mbps is an incredible result - considering my cable internet service at home tops out at around 20Mbps.

Uploads and downloads to 4G-compatible apps like Dropbox happen in the blink of an eye. Streaming video starts instantaneously. When I

"53Mbps is an incredible result - considering my cable internet service at home tops out at around 20Mbps"

do run up against limits - such as the App Store not allowing me to download anything over 50MB without Wi-Fi - I experienced flashes of disgust, as in, "how dare you hold me back."

Sadly, the biggest thing holding me back is my obsession with checking my usage stats. The smallest AT&T data plan is 250MB per month, which you can eat up watching a single movie on the *Netflix* app. I got 3GB of data for \$30, which feels more reasonable, and the iPad warns me at 20% and 10% remaining. But checking precise values lazily takes too many taps (Settings > Cellular Data > My Account, and then a login).

Going from 3G to 4G LTE feels a bit like going from dial-up to high-speed internet: seamless, convenient, and so fast. But high-speed internet at home usually doesn't come with data caps, and the new iPad's quick downloads make it easy to forget that you're pushing around much bigger files. When the network connection is blazing, sometimes your wallet is what gets burned. ●

Susie Ochs, Executive Editor of MacLife in the US, can be found burning up most of her data uploading cute pictures to Instagram.

>> A DATE WITH THE INDUSTRY

WWDC 2012 set for June

International conference goes in the diary

Apple has announced the dates for its Worldwide Developer Conference (WWDC) at San Francisco's Moscone Convention Center. Scheduled to take place one week before the E3 gaming convention, WWDC 2012 runs between 11-15 June.

"We have a great WWDC planned this year and can't wait to share the latest news with developers," said Phil Schiller, Apple's Senior Vice president of Worldwide Marketing. "iOS has created a new industry with fantastic opportunities for developers."

Last year's WWDC saw Steve Jobs make a final appearance to offer us a peek at iOS 5, OS X Lion, iTunes Match and an explanation of the company's iCloud service. Apple hasn't yet announced a keynote event, but

information on this is usually confirmed closer to the show itself.

WWDC 2012 will also feature over 100 sessions focused on deployment of the latest iOS and OS X technologies. Apple engineers will speak with developers to help them make the most of the new OS technologies.

That's likely to include implementing iCloud and AirPlay support within apps

and a host of new iOS 6 tools.

Developers can bring their code to the labs and work with Apple engineers, applying development techniques and best-practices to enhance their apps.

WWDC sold out its 5,000 seats within two hours. Developers who fail to get one can hope Apple will publish videos of the sessions after the show. ●

>> APPLE IN NUMBERS

4.5

Number of iPhones Apple sells each second

Stockwatch

A look at the world of Apple business with Clem Chambers



Apple's stock price has been rocketing all year. From \$400 it has zoomed to over \$630 a share. But, leading up to the quarterly announcement, doubt set in, sending the price to below \$560.

Apple turned in another stellar quarter and its stock price shot back over \$600 a share. There is no doubt that Apple is making a fortune. It's

also buying stock back and will be paying dividends, but there is a huge issue that the market just doesn't want to factor in.

Apple is a giant on the back of mega hits, just as Pixar was a giant on the back of cartoon equivalents of the iPod/iPhone/iPad.

One step off track would see the price cave in. With such a step Apple would still

make a fortune, and have amazing products, and be a great company, it just wouldn't be \$600 a share. As the stock market saying goes, trees don't grow to the sky. However, the believers see \$1,000 a share and a trillion-dollar cap ahead.

Clem Chambers is CEO of ADVFN, Europe's leading stocks and shares website.

>> ADOBE CREATIVITY

Adobe introduces CS6

Creative Suite 6 details announced with new tools

Adobe has announced *Creative Suite 6* and its accompanying Creative Cloud service, which acts as a hub for creating, sharing and delivering creative work.

"The urge to be creative is universal, and harnessing the creative spark - in everyone from school children to creative pros - has never been more important," said Shantanu Narayen, Adobe's President and CEO.

The release (prices vary, the Design Standard collection costs £1,032) sees many improvements. Along with 64-bit support on Macs and PCs, other notable features include:

- Significant performance improvements in *Photoshop CS6*, "Enabling near instant results from essential editing tools, including Liquify, Puppet Warp, Transform and Lighting Effects."
- An improved interface for *Illustrator CS6* users, as well as a new image-tracing engine, easy pattern creation and the ability to apply gradients to strokes.
- Better support in *InDesign CS6* for the creation of multiple layouts from a single set of content

with a new set of Adaptive Design Tools: Alternate Layout, Liquid Layout, Content Collector tools and Linked Content.

A new tool, *Adobe Muse*, lets designers create and publish HTML5 websites without writing code.

For £38 per month, Creative Cloud members can install every *Adobe CS6* application plus receive two new HTML5 products, *Muse* and *Edge*. The service integrates Adobe's tablet-focused offering, such as *Photoshop Touch*, and includes tools for mobile app creation. ●



Photoshop CS6 offers noticeably improved performance.

>> EBOOK SCANDAL

iBooks in the dock

Apple goes against Amazon in ebook battle

Apple faces a Department of Justice (DOJ) investigation exploring if it colluded with publishers in an attempt to force Amazon to take an 'agency model' for iBookstore sales.

The Department is complaining the company and publishers conspired to shift the ebook business model away from the model for ebook sales, which benefited Amazon.

"This change in model would not have occurred without the conspiracy among the defendants," the complaint says.

In a statement Apple countered: "The DOJ's accusation of collusion against Apple is not true. The launch of the iBookstore in 2010 fostered

innovation and competition, breaking Amazon's grip on the publishing industry. Since then, customers have benefited from ebooks that are more interactive and engaging. Just as we've allowed developers to set prices on the App Store, publishers set prices on the iBookstore."

Apple has agreed to reach settlement in Europe, but will fight in the US. Hachette, Harper Collins and Simon & Schuster have agreed to settle with the DOJ, while Macmillan and Penguin are fighting with Apple. In a hearing, Apple's attorney told the US District Judge: "We believe this is not an appropriate case against us and we would like to validate that." ●

>> APPLE IN NUMBERS

\$378 million

Tim Cook's 2011 pay, in a one-time award of Apple stock

Virtual Private Servers

Way more Powerful than shared, but a fraction of the cost of dedicated.

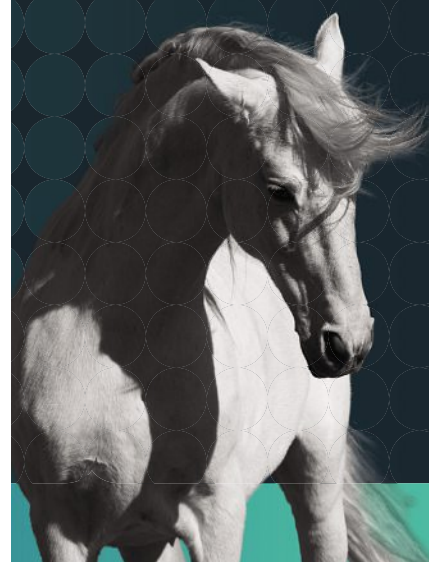
Easy managed
Choice of distro
Custom setup
Fraction the cost
Powered by Virtuozzo
Dell server

We could go on...

sales@blacknight.com
www.blacknight.com
0844 4849361



powered by
Parallels



Win! A new iPad and a copy of Swift Publisher 3!

We've also got 10 copies of Belight Software's excellent DTP package to give away, making for a fantastic competition not to be missed!

Belight Software's *Swift Publisher 3* is amazing. It's by far the best inexpensive desktop publishing solution on the Mac, with powerful yet easy-to-use tools giving incredibly professional results.

Over 180 templates created by professional designers make it really easy to lay out brochures, catalogues, fliers, newsletters and more. It supports Lion features such as Full Screen Mode and document versions, and you can now build your designs in layers for additional flexibility. And yet for all its additional tools and features, the price has gone down. *Swift Publisher 3* costs just £14.99 on the Mac App Store. And if you want to try it out before buying, there's a free trial version available to download at <http://bit.ly/HPNRUQ>.

To celebrate the launch of *Swift Publisher 3*, Belight Software has given us some excellent prizes to give away. One lucky winner gets a new Apple iPad 16GB 4G + Wi-Fi and a copy of *Swift Publisher 3*, and 10 runners-up get a copy of the application (the digital download version).

To stand a chance of winning one of these superb prizes, just answer this question:

How many templates does *Swift Publisher 3* offer out of the box?

- A) Fewer than 50
- B) Exactly 120
- C) More than 180

For more information on the new iPad, go to www.apple.com/uk/ipad. To download a free trial of *Swift Publisher 3* and find out more about Belight Software's great Mac applications, visit www.belightsoft.com.

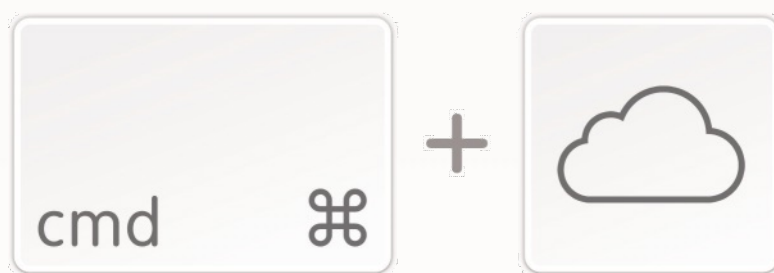
» HOW TO ENTER

- To enter, text SWIFT, followed by a space and then your answer (A, B or C), space, then your name and address to 87474; or enter via our website at www.macformat.co.uk by clicking on the **Competition** image link.
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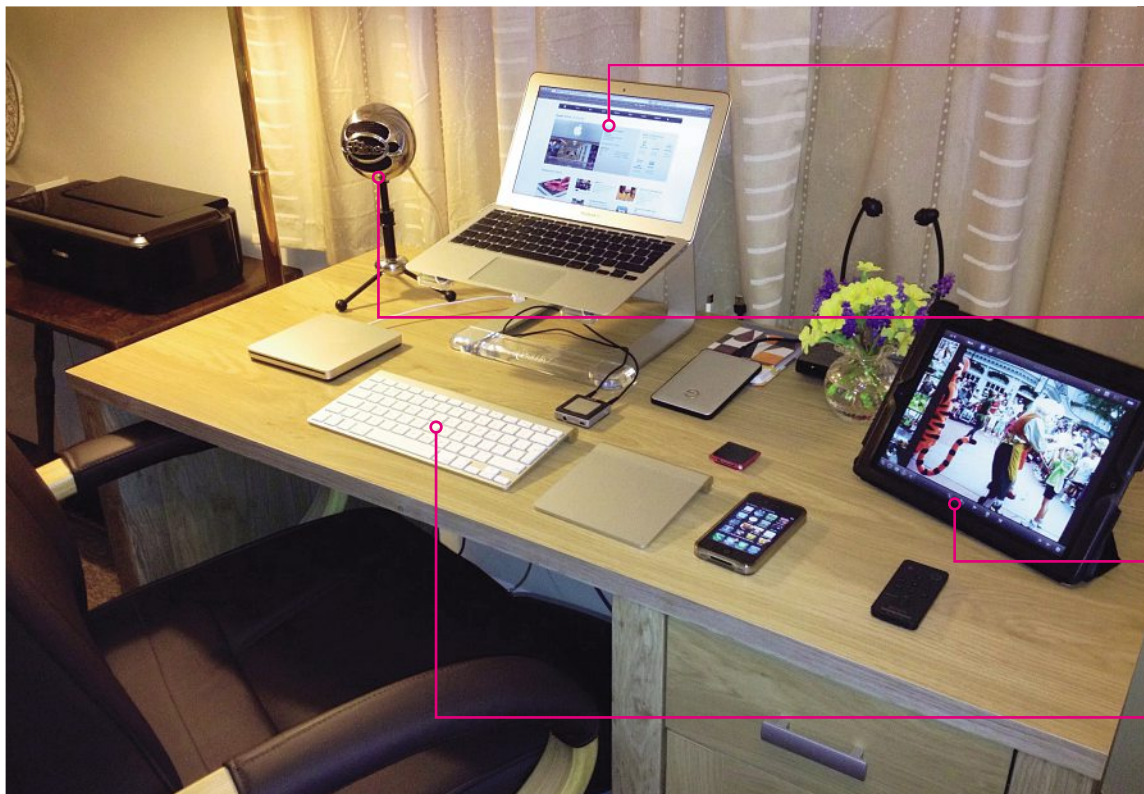
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MacBook Air

Stephen's 11-inch Air is the £999 step-up model with an 1.6GHz Intel Core i5, 4GB RAM and 128GB storage.

Blue Microphones Snowball USB

The Snowball can be used with both Mac and iPad (via the Camera Connection Kit).

Retina display iPad

He may have chosen an off-the-shelf 16GB Wi-Fi model, but there's nothing standard about Stephen's iPad.

Apple keyboard and trackpad

Stephen teamed his Air with Apple's Bluetooth keyboard and Magic Trackpad.



>>>PROFILE

Name: Stephen Thomas

Occupation: Learning support assistant

Been using a Mac for: One year

Favourite hardware: iPad

Favourite software: Pages, iPad speech recognition

Like many 'switchers', Stephen Thomas is relatively new to the Apple experience, but it wasn't the iPad, iPod or iPhone that converted him. It was a surprise experience with a friend's Mac: "I started an Open University course and found that I needed to get things typed or researched at odd hours of the day and night. Waiting for my PC to boot up, and then for applications to load took as long as five minutes, sometimes more," says Stephen. "One day I happened to be working in Liverpool and a friend lent me his Mac, as the Windows laptop I was using was just too cumbersome. It fired up in seconds. I was amazed."

That initial experience obviously made a lasting impression, as Stephen now owns a 11-inch MacBook Air, an iPhone and an Apple TV, as well as a brand new third-generation iPad - and

he uses almost all of them to help him with his studies, his work as a learning support assistant and much more besides. "Everything is much simpler. I find that *Keynote* is substantially superior to *PowerPoint* and makes building presentations and interactive quizzes almost foolproof," he says.

One of Stephen's favourite Mac applications is *Pages*. "It's a really well thought-out word processing tool," Stephen says. "The way you can add media and rotate it to make it fit is simplicity itself. I use gestures within *Pages* and I still can't believe how

"Pages is a well thought-out editing tool... I still can't believe how much better than Microsoft Word it is"

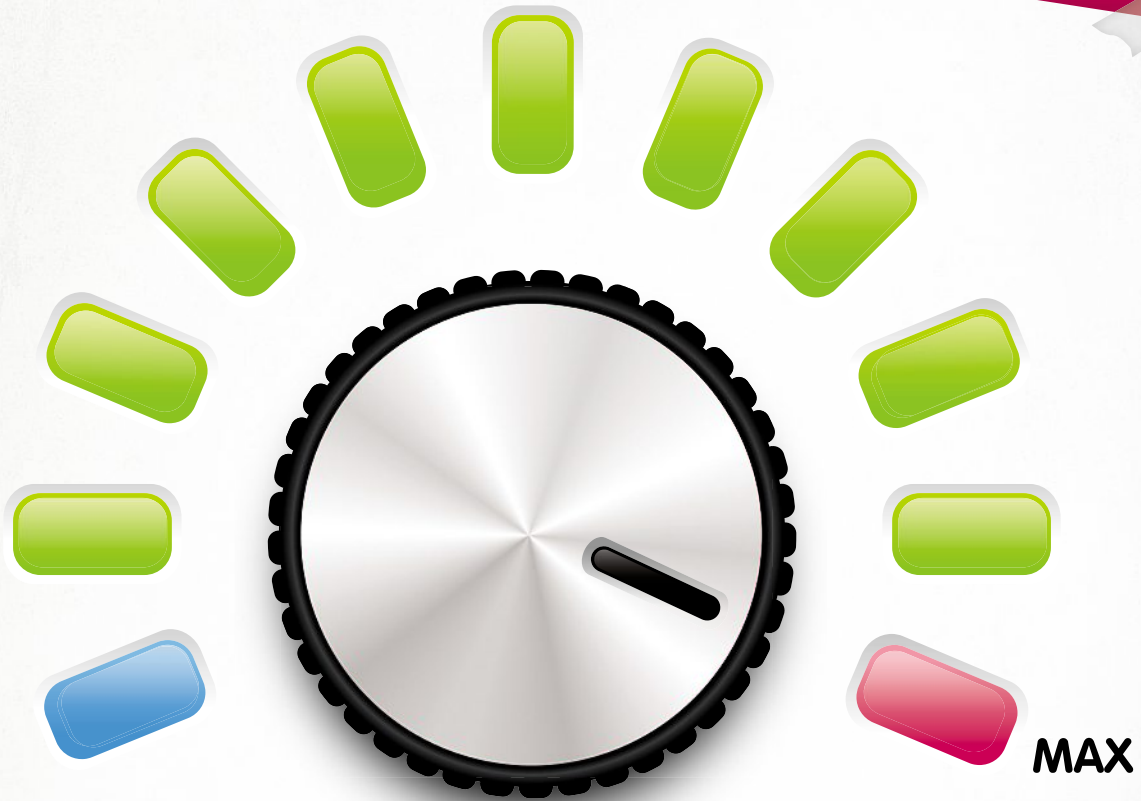
much better than *Word* it is." Increasingly Stephen finds himself using the new Dictation tool on his iPad to get his thoughts down, rather than typing them manually into his MacBook Air. He also uses *iBooks* on the iPad to store all his Open University text books in PDF form, which is "about 95% lighter and about 100% easier" than carrying them around in physical form.

Another piece of Stephen's Apple kit that gets regular use is his iPhone, which has helped him out of a tight spot on more than one occasion - whether that's doubling as a magnifying glass in class when he's mislaid his glasses, or even helping Stephen to get back to his countryside home: "There are no street lights," he says, "so the iPhone torch app I use helped me walk home safely after Bonfire Night." ●

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I use my Mac for Teaching technology

Interview: Tim Hardwick

Matt Britland is an ICT teacher who is applying his Apple enthusiasm in the classroom



»»PROFILE

Name: Matt Britland
Occupation: Head of ICT at Kingston Grammar School
URL: www.mattbritland.com, www.guardian.co.uk/profile/matt-britland
Twitter: @mattbritland
Mac: iPad (3rd gen), iPhone 4, white MacBook

BELOW: Matt's iPad comes into play in almost every aspect of his teaching.
BOTTOM RIGHT: Matt grades assignments and manages student groups using the Edmodo network app.

MacFormat: Tell us a little bit about yourself.

Matthew Britland: I'm a 34-year-old teacher from Kingston and I am Head of Information and Communications Technology (ICT) at Kingston Grammar School. I have been in the job for almost two years and I absolutely love teaching. I haven't looked back since I completed my GTP (graduate teacher program) about six years ago. As well as teaching, I blog for the Guardian Teacher Network (<http://teachers.guardian.co.uk>) and also maintain my own blog (www.mattbritland.com). As a technology buff, I'm really looking forward to a time when I see more Macs in schools.

MF: So what turned you into an Apple evangelist?

MB: It has to be the day my old school kitted out its new ICT labs with iMacs. They were dual-booting iMacs, which gave students experience of not only using Windows but also OS X. To be honest, I'd never used a Mac before then. But once I had the chance to use one, I didn't look back. I got myself a MacBook and I was officially

converted. Then came the iPhone 4 and more excitingly the iPad, the latter of which has completely changed the way I work.

MF: Describe your iPad use on a typical school day.

MB: It's my go-to tool for pretty much every aspect of my working day. Of course, I use it for checking email and using the internet, but I also use it to plan lessons and schemes of work, as well as to write blog posts. I'm constantly making notes in *Evernote*, which syncs with my iPhone and Mac. But one of its most important uses is to mark students' work. I use a great app to access an educational social network called *Edmodo* (www.edmodo.com), which allows me to assign work to students as well as mark it. It's a massive time saver. I've also used *iMovie* with students to create videos and movie trailers. It's fantastic and a really creative option for both myself and my students.

MF: What's your take on Apple's *iBooks Author* application?

MB: I think it could be a game changer in education. I'm hoping to

get some of my students to produce their Lower Sixth Extended Project in *iBooks Author* - rather than submitting a printed document, they would hand in an ebook instead. It's very exciting. It's great for creating marketing materials too. Imagine how good a prospectus would look with video, interactive photos, animation and so on!

For this to catch on though, I think the hardware needs to come down in price. iPads are a still out of reach for many people. Having said that, the recent drop in price of the iPad 2 is a good start.

MF: What current trends in technology hold out the most hope for innovating education, in your opinion?

MB: You could probably ask 10 different teachers and get 10 different answers. But for me, the big draw is tablet devices like iPads. Armed with these, students would no longer be stuck in an ICT lab or have to deal with laptops that take an age to boot and whose batteries only last a few hours. As soon as Apple comes up with an easier way for schools to manage devices and apps as well as making them cheaper, I think we'll find iPads in more and more schools.

Gaming technology is also boosting education because it's helping young people learn how to program.

Applications like *Kodu* and *Scratch* use a visual programming language that allows students to create their own video games. It's engaging, fun and more importantly it's great for teaching and learning.

This may be a bit out there, but I would love to see technology like Kinect in the classroom. While this may not improve teaching and learning, I'm sure it would boost student engagement. ●





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Gadgets

The hottest kit on the horizon.
Here's what's got us excited



▲ Damson Cisor BT5

£79 <http://damsonaudio.com>

What is it? This mini Bluetooth speaker gives 360-degree audio from a single compact unit. It's extremely well built, milled from a single piece of aluminium, and if you buy the optional mounting bracket (£9), you can stick it to the wall. Place the Cisor BT5 on a surface that carries sound, such as a coffee table, bedside cupboard, desk or window, and its output resonates, turning the entire surface into a giant speaker.

When's it due? Launched in April.

Why are we excited? Resonating speakers aren't new, but the Damson Cisor BT5 is one of the better ones we've heard.

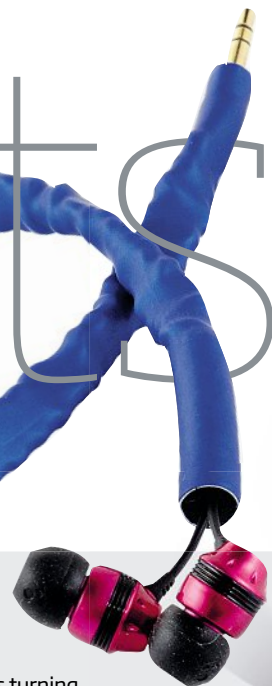
▲ CordCruncher

\$25 (around £16) www.cordcruncher.com

What is it? If you're constantly annoyed by your earbud wires turning themselves into a big tangle in your pocket, CordCruncher could be the ideal solution. This ingenious piece of design encloses a set of earbuds in an elastic sleeve to keep them in check. When not in use, it's knot-resistant and just 16-inches long. When you want to listen to your music, just stretch them out and plug them in.

When's it due? Out now.

Why are we excited? You don't get premium-quality earbuds, and unfortunately you can't use the sleeve with your own set, but if it takes off, they plan to offer a variety of headphone configurations.



◀ Otone Varsa

£80 www.otoneaudio.co.uk

What is it? Otone Varsa is a 2.0 computer stereo speaker set with a difference. If you want to perch the speakers at either end of your desk for that full stereo effect, you can. But if you'd prefer a sound bar under your iMac or monitor, no problem - they link together at the base and do just that. The right speaker features touch-sensitive controls for power, volume and mute too.

When's it due? Should be with us by the time you read this.

Why are we excited? They look great, they're the perfect match for an iMac or an Apple display, and you can't fault them for sheer versatility.



▲ La Boite Concept

From £870

www.laboiteconcept.com

What is it? This retro-style desk also turns your MacBook into a hi-fi system. A leathered top and lacquered legs give it a sleek appearance, and a built-in sound card and seven drivers means it sounds as good as it looks. Just rest your notebook atop the device and plug it in through USB, or connect your iPod or iOS device using an adapter. La Boite Concept is available in two models, the LD120, and the deluxe LD130.

When's it due? Out now.

Why are we excited? A lot of care and attention has been put into designing and building La Boite Concept, and that's always a good thing.



▲ Slouch Mat

£15 www.slouchmat.co.uk

What is it? Slouch Mat is just the thing if you need to use a mouse on awkward surfaces, such as on the sofa or your lap. It's solid, optically friendly and backed by a cushion, filled with beads that moulds itself to any surface. Rubber pads stop it sliding around too.

When's it due? Launched in April.

Why are we excited? When its inventor Nuala Lewis tried and failed to find something like this in the shops, she designed and produced one herself. *MacFormat* applauds this can-do attitude.



◀ Fitbit Aria

£120 www.fitbit.com/uk/product/aria

What is it? We never thought we'd use the phrase 'hi-tech weighing scales' in this illustrious publication, but Fitbit Aria is precisely that. As well as measuring your weight, it sends an electrical signal through your body, giving you accurate data on your fat and lean mass. It wirelessly uploads this data to Fitbit.com, so you can keep tabs on your diet and integrate the data with your FitBit Ultra personal trainer readouts.

When's it due? End of May 2012.

Why are we excited? If you need to get fit and lose some weight, the Aria is the fun way to do it.

Feedback

>> CONTACT US

Whatever your Mac-related cares, concerns or calamities are, let us know about them by contacting us on the following email address: macformat@futurenet.com

Let us know what you think about your Mac, MacFormat and everything Apple

Change for change's sake

Further to Don Winger's letter in *MF246*, I will not be upgrading to Lion (I use Snow Leopard), and look forward to Mountain Lion with horror. One of the many advantages of earlier Mac OSes was the ability to look wherever you needed to on the hard drive. In particular, early versions of *iPhoto* had the main and thumbnail files stored in easily accessible folders. I could just find and copy a thumbnail to email it, as I have to do quite a lot at times. Now I have to export each one individually, and store it somewhere, so that I can use it in my email reply. I have *iPhoto '08* (v7), and I wish that I could downgrade to the previous version.

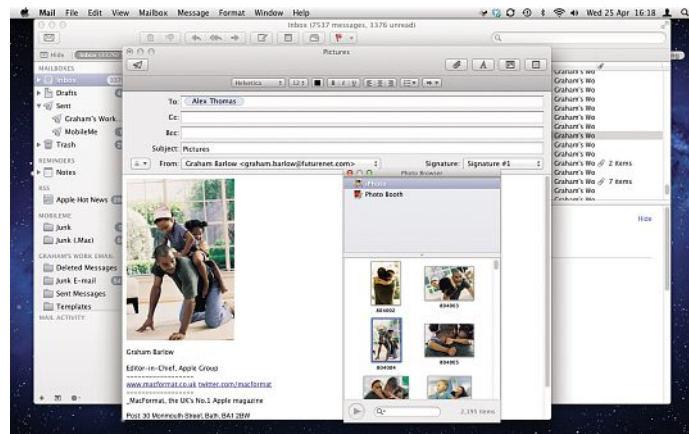
Change for change's sake is not progress, and restricting ease of use and flexibility does not endear. I am not a luddite, I genuinely think these changes represent regression.

Roy Martin

MacFormat replies:

When Apple changes things, especially a feature that you rely on, it's easy to assume that it's gone forever. Often this is not the case, and Apple has simply created a new (and possibly better) way to

do what you've always done. In the case of *iPhoto* and Lion (or even Snow Leopard for that matter), there's another way to do what you want – when you reply to an email, *Mail* now has a Photo Browser (the icon at the top-right of the reply window) which enables you to pick an image from your *iPhoto* library to attach to the email. You get a thumbnail view to choose from or you can use a Spotlight search to find it. We think that most people will find this easier than looking through folders in Finder.



Mail has its own Photo Browser for adding images to your emails.

Single user Mac serving

The new iPad looks beautiful, but before I take the plunge I have an important question. I have a MacBook Pro and an iPod touch. My husband owns a PC,

>> STAR LETTER / Happy switcher

I am relatively new to the world of Apple, having started off with an iPod touch about 18 months ago. Last summer my PC was six years old and starting to show its age, so I started researching Apple computers and bought your magazine for hints and tips. From reading various forums about the pros and cons of Apple versus PC, one comment from a blogger always stood out in my mind. Why should I buy Apple? Simple answer: "It works". That was his only comment and how simple and true that turned out to be.

I've had PCs for years, going back to the blank-screen MS-DOS days. I've been through all the Windows updates, which I have learned to live with over the years. I then purchased a Core i7 iMac. The difference is unbelievable. I am not going to defend Lion over Snow Leopard or join that debate – having a Mac means I can do what I need to do rather than waste time with Windows issues. I still have to use Windows for work, and still get messages that it's "not responding and is seeking a solution to the problem". I never

have that nonsense with the Mac. I still have a lot of learning to do and find your magazine so handy. I am now a subscriber. To complete my Apple family I got an iPad, and what a great piece of kit that is. How easy could our lives be if Apple made kitchen appliances, garden tools and so on? Keep up the good work.

Martin Roberts

MacFormat replies: Thanks, Martin. Let's hope this encourages other PC owners who have picked up *MacFormat* to find out all about Apple and make the switch.

>> STAR LETTER

Email all your letters to us at macformat@futurenet.com. If yours gets picked as the MacFormat Star Letter, you'll be sent a fantastic DTT Deluxe.

Almost impossibly tiny, this little USB device gives your Mac powerful digital TV reception.



» APPLE EVENTS / What's going on?



MACFORMAT issue 249

19 June

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annual developer jamboree this year, with Mountain Lion and iOS 6 taking centre stage.

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but now of course he's getting interested in a Mac.

I would like to buy an iPad due to its fast startup, portability, fast communication, and so on. I would also like to make it a family item, yet it seems it's not possible to have more than one user account. This is something that's easy to set up on a Mac.

Do you know if Apple will implement this facility in the next iPad update?

Martine Murdoch

MacFormat replies:

People who have their iPads overrun with apps installed by their kids, have been screaming for user accounts ever since the iPad came out in 2010 (can you believe it's only been two years now?). Apple has resisted. We're normally quite hesitant to make predictions on what Apple will or won't do in the future, but in this case we're quite confident that Apple won't do it. User accounts add a level of

Apple's iPad was designed with just one user in mind - and not two.

complexity that doesn't seem like part of Apple's grand design for the iPad. It was conceived as a simple one-user device, and Apple shows no sign of changing this.

Quick Tip conundrum

In the March 2012 issue, on page 47, you offered a tip on copying text in Quick Look. I have seen this tip elsewhere and tried it, but can never get it to work. Is it Lion specific, or is it supposed to work in Snow Leopard also?

Robert Young

MacFormat replies:

It appears to be Lion-specific. However, in testing this out for you, we noticed that in trying to fit a line of Terminal code into a small box we inadvertently missed out a



space, which is crucial to making the code work. So, Lion users, type the following code into a Terminal window to enable text selection in Quick Look:

```
defaults write com.apple.finder QLEnableTextSelection -bool TRUE; killall Finder
```

And make sure there's a space before the -bool part.

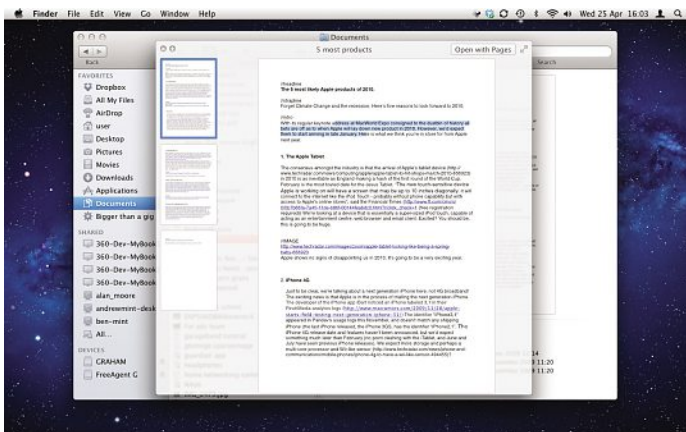
Support for DVB-T2

I'm currently using an Elgato TV tuner and EyeTV 3 software. With the digital switchover, I want to get access to the Freeview HD or freesat services that are available. Can you recommend a product that would be able to receive these channels? Great magazine - keep up the good work.

Brian Allen

MacFormat replies:

The DVB-T products support HD where it's used (everywhere but the UK), but sadly, DVB-T2 isn't supported. We don't know of any products that do support DVB-T2. Let's hope somebody like Elgato plugs this gap in the market soon. ●



Lion users can copy and paste text from the Quick Look window with this tip.

Twitter talk

From the Twittersphere

We asked:

Would you be interested in seeing the rumoured 7-inch iPad mini in Apple stores?

@LAMF72

"Rumoured 7-inch iPad is neither phone nor tablet. Utterly pointless. Apple must always look forward, and let the imitators do the cross-breeding."

@Macintosh6278

"Would love a 7-inch iPad for reading and internet use. It's the perfect size for me, as the current iPad is a touch heavy."

@owencompton

"I wouldn't use a 7-inch iPad - my existing one has a great-sized screen for browsing the net. Any smaller would be pointless."

@bigtallguy75

"Apple already make a so-called 'mini iPad' - it's called an iPod touch."

@GreenManVideos

"I'd like one because it would be a similar size to the current Kindle. It would be a nice size and beautiful."

@1bradwelch

"Sounds like the perfect size for two-year-olds and growing children!"

@rjmorita

"I like the iPad because it's big. How am I supposed to read the magazines I subscribe to on a puny 7-inch screen? No, thanks."

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Words: Gary Marshall Image: Mike Chipperfield @ MagicTorch

MacFormat investigates

How Apple rose to riches

Apple's on track to become the world's first trillion-dollar company, and it's already the most valuable firm on Earth. How did that happen – and can it last?

Apple's value hit \$619 billion (£389 billion) in April, making it the world's most valuable company – and some experts suggest that it could be worth an incredible \$1 trillion by this time next year as it expands into China. It's an extraordinary amount of money, especially for a firm that many people dismissed as a basket case in the early 90s. So what's Apple's secret?

Better by design

Design has been in Apple's DNA since 1977's Apple II, whose case was inspired by the food processors and coffee makers Steve Jobs saw in a Macy's department store. Jobs tried (and failed) to persuade Steve Wozniak that customers only needed expansion slots for a printer and modem, but he did play a key role in designing the case to make it as friendly as possible. That friendliness and simplicity has been key to Apple products ever since, from the Lisa and Macintosh of the 80s to the iMac of the 90s and the OS X and iOS devices of today.

For Apple, design isn't something you bring in to make things look pretty – it's part of the

process from day one. "In most people's vocabularies," Steve Jobs told Fortune in 2000, "design means veneer. It's interior decorating. It's the fabric of the curtains and the sofa." Jobs, and Apple, didn't think that way: describing the iMac, he said that "the essence of the iMac is to be the finest possible consumer computer in which each element plays together."

If that means asking your engineers to make the impossible possible, so be it. "I was adamant that we get rid of the fan,

because it is much more pleasant to work on a computer that doesn't drone all the time," Jobs said. "It required a huge engineering effort to figure out how to manage power better and

to do a better job of thermal conduction through the machine. That is the furthest thing from veneer. This is what customers pay us for: to sweat all these details so it's really easy and pleasant for them to use our computers."

That philosophy applies to the entire Apple experience. It's why Apple offers a handful of products in each category instead of dozens

"For Apple, design isn't something you bring in to make things pretty. It's part of the process from day one"





APPLE RICHES

of barely differentiated ones, it's why even the cheapest bit of Apple kit is packaged so beautifully, and it's why Apple often prototypes new products but decides not to ship them. Other firms want to be all things to all people. Apple wants to be insanely great.

When Apple lost it

To become as big as Apple you need an astonishing manufacturing operation, peerless marketing, the ability to see into the future and floundering rivals. Apple has all of those things now, but it didn't in the 90s. In 1997, *Wired* magazine famously put the Apple logo on its front cover with a simple one-word headline: "Pray."

Apple's biggest problem in the 1990s was Windows, which became the dominant personal computing platform. Apple, who had given Steve Jobs the boot back in 1985, responded to the threat by making lots of barely differentiated products that it hoped would compete with the Windows juggernaut. It didn't work, and Apple ended up with stacks of Macs people didn't want and huge waiting lists for the ones people did. *TIME* magazine went so far as to describe the Apple of the time as "arguably one of the worst-managed companies in the industry."

Apple Incorporated was bleeding money, and in 1997 its share price hit a 12-year low: while today Apple is worth more than Microsoft and Google combined, in Q2 1997 it was worth just \$2.17 billion. Microsoft, meanwhile, was worth \$141 billion.

The second coming of Steve

In 1996, the exiled Jobs told PBS's *Wall Street Week* programme what he felt was wrong with the firm he had co-created. "Apple stood still,"

JIM WATSON/AFP/Getty Images



The iPod changed everything, transforming Apple's fortunes and leading to a future of iPhones and iPads.

he said, arguing that "people have caught up with it, and its differentiation has eroded, in particular with respect to Microsoft... the way out is not to slash and burn, it's to innovate. That's how Apple got its glory, and that's how Apple could return to it."

When Jobs returned to Apple in 1997, he simplified everything from Apple's range of products to the number of advertising agencies it used, and he also changed the

"Jobs knew that trying to compete with Windows PCs was a race to the bottom, so he didn't bother to compete"



SSPL/Getty Images

Apple's stripped-down approach dates back to the Apple II, itself designed to be as friendly as any home appliance.

company's focus. Jobs knew that trying to compete with Windows PCs was a race to the bottom, so he didn't even try to compete in that market.

There's a famous quote by hockey star Wayne Gretzky: "A good hockey player knows where the puck is. A great hockey player plays where the puck is going to be." Jobs wanted Apple to be great, not good, so he bet Apple on where he thought the puck was going to be: the internet and digital media.

The 1998 iMac transformed Apple's fortunes, becoming the most popular personal computer in America. By 2000, Apple's finances had recovered, and Jobs told *BusinessWeek* that "we should be in an incredible place as this convergence of computing and communications explodes in the next few years. I think it's ours to lose."

» IS BIG APPLE A BAD APPLE? / Two key criticisms of its global operations

Where rival firms make single-digit profits on their hardware, Apple can make margins of more than 40%. Those margins aren't because Apple is gouging its customers, because if that were the case only the most dedicated Apple fans would buy Apple kit. The secret to Apple's margins is ruthless cost-cutting, which makes Apple an easy target for protest groups who accuse it of being a bad corporate citizen.

There are two key criticisms of Apple's global operations. The first is that it outsources the majority of its production to companies and countries where employees aren't paid very well, and where people work in the kind of conditions that would appall Westerners. The second is that Apple actively avoids paying tax any way it can – so, for example, it routes all of its UK income through Ireland to avoid UK corporation tax, and



Despite UK sales of more than £6 billion, Apple only paid £10 million in UK corporation tax in the last financial year.

much of its cash is currently held overseas to avoid US taxes on its profits.

Both allegations are absolutely true, but it's hard to see alternatives: outsourcing has created an ecosystem in Asia that offers production

efficiencies Western countries can only dream of. And while everybody in the industry outsources, Apple is one of the few firms to invite external auditors to inspect its subcontractors' premises for abuses of workers' rights.

With tax, Apple's also doing what everybody else does: Amazon, Google, Microsoft and many more use the same loopholes to keep their tax bills to a minimum, with digital sales going via Luxembourg for its lower VAT and UK income going via Ireland. As public corporations with shareholders to satisfy, technology firms arguably must seek out and exploit such loopholes to maximise their profits, because that's what corporations are supposed to do; if avoiding corporation tax is bad for our economy, then the onus is on George Osborne to close the loopholes Apple and others exploit.

» MISTAKES MATTER TOO / Learning from the flops

Even Apple's failures can become successes: for example, the ill-fated G4 Cube was canned in 2001 but Apple learned from its failure, ensuring that future computers didn't sacrifice usefulness for prettiness. It returned in the less slimline but much quieter Mac mini in 2005, and arguably inspired the design of the flagship New York Apple Store too.

Another useful failure was the Motorola ROKR E1 iTunes

phone, which Steve Jobs tried and failed to be enthusiastic about in 2005. Jobs' contempt for the phone was obvious and hilarious, but the ROKR helped inform the iPhone's design – albeit in a “for God's sake don't make it like this” way.

Then, of course, there was the Newton PDA, an inspired device that was announced far too early and rushed to market before it was finished. Compare that to iOS devices: these days

Apple doesn't announce, let alone ship, anything until it's totally ready.

Today's Apple has learned from its own mistakes, and from its rivals' mistakes too. If it's not good enough or ready, the product doesn't ship.



Apple didn't lose: a year later, it had the iPod. The iPod wasn't the first MP3 player, but it was the most desirable. Where other firms loaded their devices with every conceivable feature and option, Apple kept it simple and beautiful and sold shedloads.

The iPod wasn't just significant for its industrial design, though: tight integration with iTunes and later, the iTunes Music Store offered an overall experience that rivals, such as Microsoft's PlaysForSure partners, simply couldn't deliver. Factor in some truly wonderful marketing, as well as packaging that made you feel that you'd bought something truly valuable, and it's clear that where other firms were making gadgets, Apple was making objects of desire.

By 2005, the iPod 'halo effect' was a recognised phenomenon: in a 2005 survey by Morgan Stanley, some 43% of iPod owners said they were considering a Mac as their next computer. Apple's market share of the PC market has continued to grow, and today it has more than 10% of the traditional PC market.

Beware of cannibals

Cannibalisation is when a new product destroys the market for an existing one. Apple hasn't suffered from it so far, largely because Apple is its own cannibal: Steve Jobs was quick to see that the biggest threat to the iPod was the smartphone, so rather than try to protect the iPod, Apple created a smartphone with an iPod in it. The iPhone, of course, has done very well. According to ComScore, Apple has 30% of the US smartphone market – and according to Asymco.com, while Apple only has 9% of the global market it rakes in 75% of the profits. The iPhone business alone is bigger than

Microsoft. Apple is also cannibalising the PC. The iPad is starting to take a big chunk out of PC sales, and it's destroying the market for netbook PCs. Despite the best efforts of rivals, the tablet market is almost entirely Apple's – and if you class the iPad as a PC, then Apple is already the largest PC manufacturer on Earth.

Apple learned valuable lessons from the bad old days of the 90s, when it had Macs it couldn't sell and orders it couldn't fulfil. Under the auspices of Tim Cook, Apple closed its factories and warehouses, outsourcing production and cleaning up what CNN called “the atrocious state of Apple's manufacturing, distribution and supply apparatus.” Cook

“Apple learned valuable lessons from the bad old days of the 90s, when it had Macs it couldn't sell”



Many copied the iMac's colours, but missed the important bit: it was designed to be “the finest possible consumer computer”.

described his approach as being like that of the dairy business:

“If it gets past its freshness date, it's a problem.”

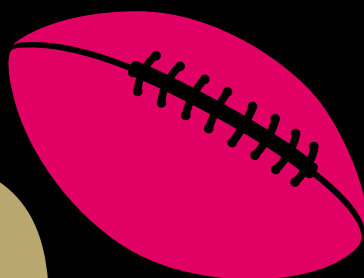
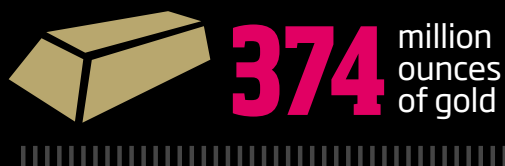
Cook didn't just reduce inventory and outsource manufacturing, though. He also arranged deals that give Apple enormous competitive advantage. So, for example, when Apple launched the iPod nano, he prepaid suppliers and effectively bought the world's supply of suitable Flash memory. Apple signs similar deals for other crucial components, such as TFT displays, and it even helps its suppliers finance new manufacturing facilities: in 2011 it announced that it would pay nearly \$4 billion for “inventory component prepayments and capital expenditures” over the next two years.

\$4 billion is a lot of money, but it's worth a lot to Apple: it gets enormous economies of scale that keep prices low, and it gets guaranteed supplies of crucial components. That can make life exceptionally difficult for rivals, so, for example, nobody so far has been able to make anything as good as the iPad at the same price as the iPad. As an industry source told *BusinessInsider*, “If it weren't for Tim Cook, the iPad would cost \$5,000”.

Can it last? There certainly don't appear to be any dents in Apple's armour. Each quarter's financial results are more staggering than the previous one's, and while rivals may have caught up with Apple in some sectors, such as smartphones, Apple's still the innovator, the firm whose products people love rather than like. In 2000, Jobs said that the market was Apple's to lose; 12 years on, it still is. »

What's Apple actually worth?

619 billion dollars sounds like a lot, but what can it get you in the real world? The short answer appears to be... everything



4,952

really nice Greek islands

(based on \$125m asking price for Patroklos)



73

343

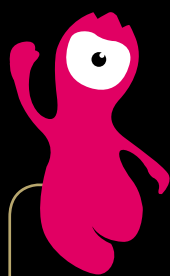
Dallas

Cowboys★
(Forbes)

2.14

Greeces

(based on current debt of \$269 billion)



London Olympics

(based on official budget)

123,800

Hublot watches

(\$5 million apiece)



Space Shuttles

1,049

private yachts with missile defences

(M/Y Eclipse, belonging to Roman Abramovich)



1,238

Emirates Palace Hotels, Abu Dhabi



3.1

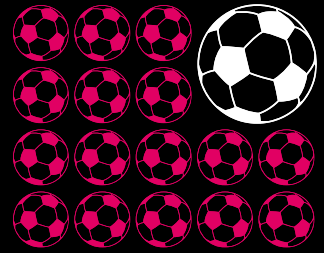
Googles

GGG

Once you get beyond a certain amount of money, the numbers become so big that they're mind-boggling: Apple's \$619 billion valuation (£389 billion in real money) means it's worth more than every single publicly traded company in Spain, Portugal and Greece combined. Even Apple's bank account has the best part of \$100 billion in it, and as *The Guardian* reports, that's enough to pay for the entire UK education

system and still have enough left over for some Ferraris and fancy yachts.

The only way to really appreciate the incredible size of Apple's market valuation is to work out what else you could buy with the same money. Never mind posh holidays, the odd day out and a new sports car: we're talking buying entire countries, funding the Olympics and buying a luxury limousine for every day of the week. So what does 619 billion get you? ●



257

Manchester Uniteds
(Forbes.com valuation)

2.4

Microsofts



364

New York Yankees

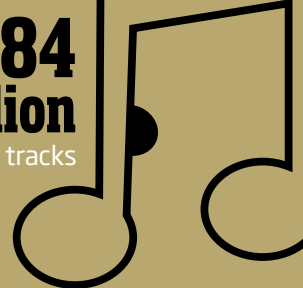
(Forbes)

4

Greggs sausage rolls
for every man, woman and
child on Earth every
weekday for a month



884
billion
iTunes tracks



5 billion
barrels of oil

1,547

RMS Titanics
(at today's prices)

6,190

Mona Lisas



389,000
Bugatti
Veyrons



1,358

Frankencelebs

made from Rihanna's legs (insured for \$1m), Dolly Parton's chest (\$3.8m), Tom Jones' chest hair (\$7 million), Keith Richards' hands (\$1.6 million), Bruce Springsteen's voice (\$31.2 million), Michael Flatley's feet (\$40 million), David Beckham's legs (\$70 million) and J-Lo's behind (\$300 million)

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for laptop protection. A removable nylon shoulder strap is also included. See www.acmemade.com for more. Please select from 13-inch or 15-inch when placing your order. **Free for all new UK Subscribers on this offer!**

Words: Nick Peers Photography: iStockphoto

Make your Mac roar!

Frustrated with the way Lion works? Worried you're about to fall out of love with your Mac? We have all you need to rekindle your relationship with OS X

Apple always manages to provoke a Marmite-like response whenever it releases a new version of OS X. And this has been no different with OS X Lion. For every new feature lauded as a massive improvement in some quarters, you'll find others bemoaning the changes.

But, here, we'll reveal the tips, tricks, techniques and tools you need in order to remake Lion in an image that suits you. We'll start by showing how to adjust aspects that have divided the user base. You'll find out how to customise *Finder*, plus discover how to remove the much-reported love/hate features, such as Resume, the faux-leather look of *iCal* and *Address Book*, and reverse scrolling.

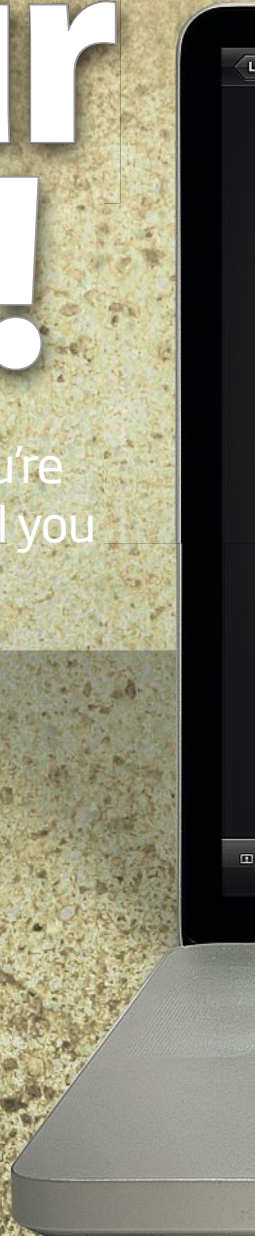
We'll then take a more positive look at Lion, and reveal how it can bring your Mac

and your iPhone, iPad and iPod touch into closer harmony. There's tips for data and media sharing, plus tools for using your iOS device as a second monitor or portable scanner. You'll even discover how to browse your mobile's storage direct from the Mac desktop and turn your iPad or iPhone into a trackpad and keyboard.

Next, we'll round up some tools that extend Lion's functionality, from adding multi-paned windows in *Finder* to providing thumbnail previews in the Dock.

We'll then finish with how you can emulate the best of Mountain Lion's great new features in Lion, getting functionality such as Messages, Notification Center, Document Sync and more.

We'll show you everything you need to fall back in love with OS X all over again ensuring a happy life with Lion.



IMPROVE OS X 10.7 LION <<

Get ahead of the curve and use a whole raft of secret tips that will transform Lion into Mountain Lion.



Customise Lion for the better

Frustrated by Lion's little quirks? Read on for all the tips and tricks you need

Some changes introduced in OS X Lion haven't been to everyone's tastes. Luckily, many of those changes can be tweaked, while other annoyances can be tamed with third-party software, helping you avoid a trip into *Terminal*. If you've been plagued by a particular setting, read on to discover how to resolve the situation.

Finder tweaks

If you want your *Finder* windows to resemble Snow Leopard, the following tweaks will bring things back. First, restore the status bar at the bottom of each *Finder* window by selecting View > Status Bar. Next, open the *Finder* menu and select Preferences, then choose your home folder from the 'New *Finder* windows shows:' drop-down menu. Now switch to the Sidebar tab and place ticks next to missing shortcuts.

Lion increases the size of the *Finder* sidebar icons, so less fit on the screen at once - revert to Snow Leopard settings by opening the General System Preferences pane and setting the 'Sidebar icon size' dropdown menu to Small.

Wondering how you remove items from the Favourites sidebar? Hold down **⌘** as you drag them away and watch them disappear.

Disable Resume

Don't like apps restoring their saved state after being reopened? Hold down the **⇧** key as you open a program's menu to access the Quit option, you'll see the option changes to 'Quit and Discard Windows', allowing you to close a program without saving its state.

It can be fiddly remembering this, so if you never use Resume, disable it from the General



Follow our tips to transform *Finder* back into something resembling Snow Leopard.

System Preferences pane: untick 'Restore windows when quitting and re-opening apps'. Not all apps use Lion's Resume function to save their state, so if one continues to reopen previous windows when launching, check its Preferences for an option to disable it.

You can also choose which apps use Resume (without using *Terminal* or locking folders) by downloading and installing *TinkerTool* from www.breslink.com/osx/TinkerTool.html. Switch to the Resume tab and use the drop-

down menu next to an app to selectively disable or enable Resume for that app. Once complete, log off and back on for changes to take effect.

Disable Resume on reboot

If you're always waiting while a load of applications you previously had open restore themselves, you might want to switch off the 'Reopen windows when logging back in' feature permanently. The solution involves visiting <http://ikluge.com/2011/08/24/getting-rid-of->

>> QUICK-FIRE TWEAKS / Customise more than 20 features with Lion Tweaks

When Lion was first released, tweaking many settings to more closely resemble what you were used to involved opening *Terminal* or editing system files. Now, nine months on, you can make changes with just a few clicks thanks to various third-party tweaking tools.

One of the best is Lion Tweaks (<http://ifredrik.com/applications>) - this regularly updated freebie currently allows you to 'fix' 23 settings with little or no fuss. The step-by-step guide covers restoring

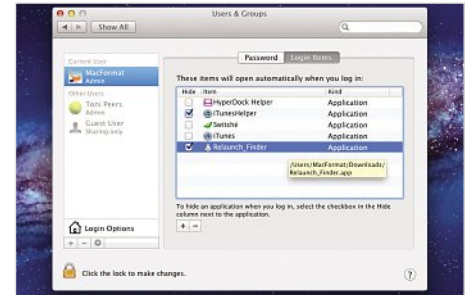
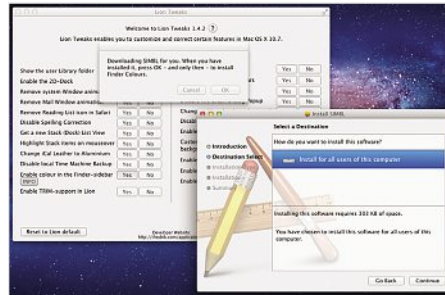
coloured icons to the *Finder* sidebar, but other improvements include making your personal Library folder visible again, re-enabling the 2D Dock, removing various animations and restoring the old aluminium look to both *iCal* and *Address Book*.

It also provides a number of tweaks to how Stacks behave, allows AirDrop to function on older Macs and switches on TRIM support for non-Apple SSDs in Lion. Put simply, it's an essential tool if you're unhappy with certain aspects of Lion.



Change settings with ease all thanks to Lion Tweaks.

>> HOW TO / Restore the colourful Finder sidebar icons

**01 Install Lion Tweaks**

Get *Lion Tweaks* from <http://ifredrik.com>. Once done, drag the *Lion Tweaks* app from Downloads into your Applications folder. Double-click to launch the program, clicking Open when prompted. Start by clicking Yes next to Enable colour in the Finder-sidebar.

02 Install extras

Click Yes, Download it for me. Safari will download and extract its contents – just browse to Downloads\SIMBL-0.9.9 to install the pkg file. Return to *Lion Tweaks* and click OK > No, Create it for me. If colour icons don't appear, click Already got it... twice.

03 Auto-restore

To prevent icons disappearing after reboot, go to www.themacmob.com/downloads and click Relaunch_Finder.zip to download a script. Open System Preferences > Users & Groups > Login Items, then drag the script into this list. Tick its entry, then restart. ●

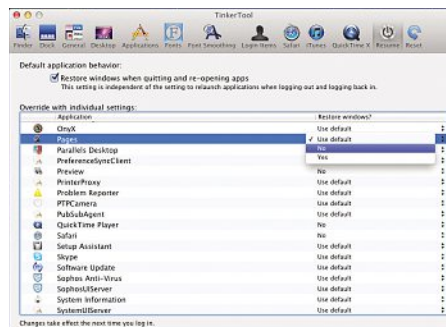
lions-application-restore where you'll find script to copy and paste into a *Terminal* window. Once pasted, hit `[⏏]`, read the warning and enter your user password to make the change.

Once done, reboot ignoring the 'Reopen windows...' prompt as it's now disabled, and only *Finder* will launch when you log in.

Should you wish to restore the original feature, open *Terminal*, and type: `sudo defaults delete com.apple.loginwindow LoginHook`

Trackpad and mouse settings

If you can't bear the reverse mouse scrolling feature, switch it off via the Mouse *System Preferences* pane (untick 'Scroll direction: natural'). You may also find yourself confused by changes to various swipes (navigating pages in

**Pick which apps use Resume with TinkerTool.**

Safari is now done with two fingers instead of three, for example, in which case, switch to the More Gestures tab to swap them round again.

Lion also disables tap dragging by default – switch it back on, and disable inertial scrolling at the same time from the Universal Access *System Preference* pane (select Mouse or Mouse & Trackpad).

Cut Dashboard from Mission Control

Dashboard has been reduced to a Space in Mission Control in Lion. If you want to revert it to an overlay – as it does in Snow Leopard – open the Mission Control's *System Preferences* pane and untick 'Show Dashboard as a space'.

Dump the username

Lion places your username in the menu bar as a shortcut for logging off or switching user, but if you don't need it, hold `[⌘] + [⇧]` as you click and drag it off the bar.

Can't get used to reversed scrolling in Lion? Switch back via the Mouse System Preferences pane.



Don't like the new login screen? Loginox will change it.

Change the login screen

Lion makes it more difficult to change the login screen, but with a copy of the free *Loginox* (www.loginox.branox.com), it's simple to change background texture and logo. The program will resize and convert images, all you need to do is supply the original images (we suggest a logo with a transparent background).

Revert to classic Mail

The new user interface for *Mail* in Lion will surprise many, but, Apple makes it simple to revert to the older, classic user interface. Open *Mail*, then select Mail > Preferences, choose Viewing and tick User classic layout. Once done, click the Show button under the mail icon to reveal the Mailboxes sidebar.

Replace Front Row

Lion removes the *Front Row* media software completely, and recent updates to *iTunes* mean it's not practical to restore it using *Front Row Enabler*. If you want a suitable replacement on your Mac, we recommend trying *XBMC* (<http://xbmc.org>), a complete media centre solution. If you need help with tagging your movies and TV shows, try *iIdentify 2* (<http://identify2.armihardies.com>). >>

Use Lion with your iOS device

Discover how your Mac and iOS devices can play beautifully together

One of Apple's many strengths is the way its devices integrate so well with each other. If you've not yet done so, now is the time to discover the myriad of ways in which your Mac can work with – and share with – your iPhone, iPad and iPod touch.

Access your Mac's media

Take advantage of the storage space on your hard drive to store media remotely, then stream it to your iPad or iPhone. If you're looking to share media over your local network, then *iTunes*' Home Sharing function is all you need: set it up in *iTunes* on your Mac via the Advanced menu (select Turn On Home Sharing), then tap Settings on your iOS device and select Music and Video, in turn, to switch on Home Sharing.

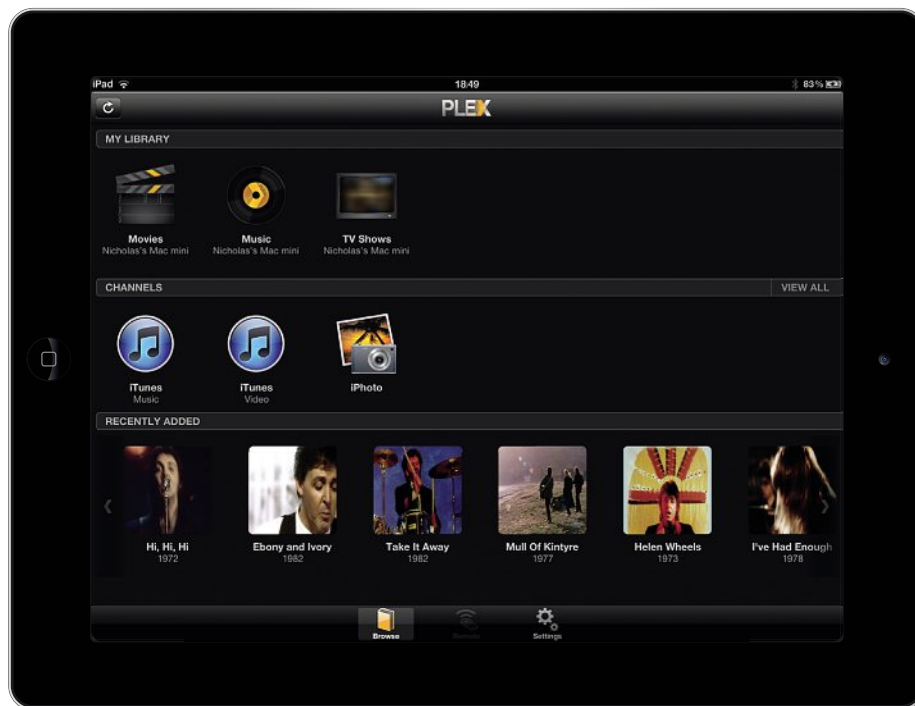
Once set up, your Mac's media library will be available from both *Music* and *Video* apps. If you'd like to access your media from outside your home network, or want a slicker user interface, then *Plex* (www.plexapp.com) takes things further. It's perfect for sharing media between home computers and mobile devices.

If you've stored media on a network-attached hard drive, and are sharing it via a DLNA server, use *VLC Media Player* (www.videolan.org/vlc) on your Mac and *MLPlayer Lite* on your iOS device to get at your media.

Share files and more

One way to share content between your Mac and iOS device is with *iCloud*, but if you want more flexibility, consider the *Dropbox* app for the iPad or iPhone, which lets you easily share and sync data via your *Dropbox* folder.

If you'd rather transfer files over your Wi-Fi network rather than sync them via the cloud,



The Plex iOS app provides a really beautiful interface for navigating your Mac's media collection.

install *DropCopy* on your Mac and *DropCopy Lite* on your iOS device. *DropCopy* allows up to three devices to share files via a 'hot spot' on the Mac's desktop or within the app – drag a file over here, pick your destination computer or device and it will transfer over. If you'd like to share clipboard content, your photo library and enjoy file previews for many common file types, upgrade to the full *DropCopy* app on your iPad or iPhone for £2.99. If you'd like to copy and paste between Mac and iOS, consider *ClipTwin* (<http://cliptwin.intellicore.net>).

Sync files

Sometimes it's not really that convenient to synchronise all your files through a single folder, as is the case with *Dropbox*. If you'd like to sync files and folders without having to move them to a different location on your Mac, download and install *SugarSync* (www.sugarsync.com) on your Mac and iOS device. You will get 5GB of online storage, which makes it as good for backing up, as well as file syncing and sharing – go to page 40 for more information.

>> BROWSE FILES / Access your iPad or iPhone's content on your Mac

When you hook up your iPad, iPhone or iPod touch to your Mac, you're limited to accessing it through *iTunes*. This is fine for syncing media, apps and some settings between the two devices, but it does make it next to impossible to access other files stored on your iOS device.

Fret not, for *iExplorer* (www.macroplant.com/iexplorer) is a free tool that allows you to browse your iOS device's folders and files in a *Finder*-like display. You can copy files to your

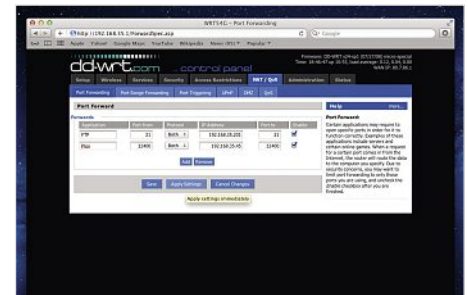
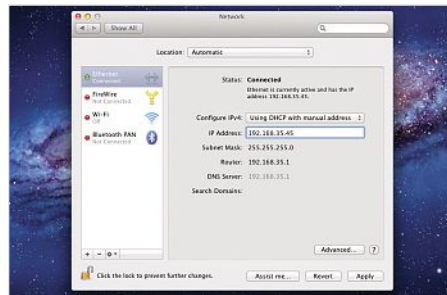
Mac, simply through drag and drop, move them around, create new folders and even delete content (be careful). There's an auto-preview function letting you see which photo corresponds to what file, and it works perfectly with non-jailbroken devices, so you won't be venturing into dodgy territory.

If you'd like to be able to access the iOS device as a removable drive, click the Mount Disk button for details of obtaining Phone Disk, which costs around £13.



Browse your iPhone, iPad or iPod touch with iExplorer.

>> HOW TO / Access Plex Media Server over the internet

**01 The simple method**

After installing and configuring *Plex Media Server* on your Mac, select **Preferences** from the *Plex* menu bar icon. Select **myPlex** and sign into your account. Tick **Publish server to myPlex** and wait. When outside your home network, sign in on your iOS device.

02 Assign a static IP address

If this doesn't work, open the **Network** system preferences, and set **Configure IPv4** to **Using DHCP with manual address**. Enter an IP address into the IP Address field: the first three digits should be the same, but the fourth should be a unique number between 0 and 255.

03 Set up port forwarding

Open your router's configuration utility and locate **Port Forwarding**. Create a new rule, entering 32400 into **Port from** and **Port to**, followed by your Mac's new static IP address in the **IP Address** box. Click **Apply Settings**, return to the **myPlex** tab and connect again. ●

Sync notes

Being able to take notes on any of your devices and sync them seamlessly to another is a great time-saving tool, ensuring you always have access to the latest version of your notes and jottings. Check out page 40 for two great note-taking tools that work with Mac and iOS devices.

Take remote control

Your iOS device lets you get away from your desk without losing touch with your Mac – just turn your iPhone or iPad into a virtual remote control, that emulates your Mac's mouse/



You can view the whole of your iPad or iPhone's screen on your Mac desktop with the Reflection app.



The new iPad's Retina display makes it especially suitable for taking remote control of your Mac.

trackpad and keyboard, and also provides you with a way of accessing your media.

If you only want to emulate the mouse and keyboard from your iPhone, download and install the free *Mobile Mouse* server from <http://mobilemouse.com> on your Mac, then install *Mobile Mouse Lite* from the App Store on your iPhone or iPod touch.

Access your Mac remotely

You can go one step further and access your Mac from another room (or house) using your iOS device. Use your Mac's built-in remote sharing capabilities in conjunction with *ConnectMyMac* – you'll need to tick **Remote Management** in the **Sharing System Preferences** pane. Or you can opt for *TeamViewer* (www.teamviewer.com). This is free, and involves installing a server app on your Mac, then installing the iOS app on your device.

Get a second monitor...

How about utilising your iPad or iPhone as a secondary display for your Mac? If you have a smaller screen, *Air Display* (£6.99, App Store) gives you screen space to stash toolbars and smaller apps. Download and install the free *Air Display Connect* software for your Mac from <http://avatron.com/apps/air-display>, and you'll be able to extend your computer's display wirelessly over Wi-Fi, and utilise your iOS device's screen to interact directly with it too.

Alternatively, transmit your iOS device's screen to your Mac with the help of *Reflection* – the full version costs \$14.99, but you can get a 10-minute trial from www.reflectionapp.com, allowing you to beam your iPad or iPhone's screen to your Mac's desktop.



Mobile Mouse turns your device into a virtual mouse.

... and a portable scanner

The cameras on the iPhone 4GS and new iPad make great scanners. Use the built-in camera app, or opt for a scanning app like *Doc Scan HD*. This also lets you transfer your scan to your Mac via different methods, including *Dropbox*. >>

Add extra features to OS X

Discover the best third-party apps for improving the way your Mac works

One of the best features of OS X is how configurable it is, but after you've performed all the tweaks you possibly can, you might still feel there are features missing. Don't worry, though, because there are a host of apps available for adding in useful functionality – and many come completely free. Those that have a price tag attached offer a free trial version for download unless stated.

Revamp Open/Save dialogues

If you find the dialog box time-consuming for opening and saving documents, try *Default Folder X* (£22, www.stclairsoft.com/DefaultFolderX). Once installed, use it to open or save files in any app – the shortcut icons will allow you to set up favourite folders, plus access recently opened folders and jump to a folder that's open in *Finder*. It even allows you to set default folders for different apps, with preview info underneath the *Open/Save* dialogue box, and options for adding keywords, tags, folder permissions and comments.

You can configure the app from its menu bar icon, and then marvel at how it blends into OS X – it's so intuitive to use it won't take long for it to become indispensable.

Dock thumbnail previews

One of our favourite OS X add-ons has to be *HyperDock* (\$9.95, <http://hyperdock.bahoom.com>). This tool takes two of Windows 7's best features, and integrates them into OS X. The first is window snapping – just drag two windows to opposite sides of the screen and they'll resize to sit side-by-side.



Speed up your work by opening and saving operations using *Default Folder X*. You can even set up favourite folders.

For the second feature, roll your mouse over an open app on the dock, and a window will appear with thumbnails of every open document in that app. Roll over a thumbnail to see a full-size preview, click it to go to that window.

Because *HyperDock* is fully configurable, you can tweak the size of the thumbnails and choose the grid layout (by default, five windows per row are shown). *HyperDock* also allows you to set up shortcuts for dock items, allowing you to hide, quit or open new windows quickly.

Efficient window management

HyperDock's window-snapping capabilities (free with *iSnap* on the Mac App Store) are good, but if you don't want to manage multiple open windows at once, then *Deskoverly* (£16, www.neomobili.com/products/descovery/) will appeal. It provides a list of open windows for switching between, with resizing options from the Maximise button. Windows become magnetic to snap to screen edges, and you can also minimise windows to their titlebar.

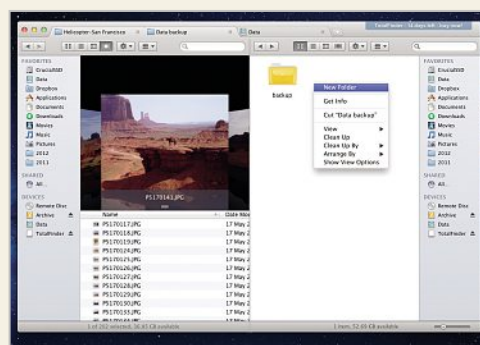
>> POWER UP FINDER / Browse and navigate on your Mac more easily

If you feel restricted by *Finder*, you'll find solace in the additional tools offered by these three *Finder* add-ons, all of which add useful new tools and functions. *XtraFinder* (www.trankynam.com/xtrafinder) adds a number of useful commands to *Finder* context menus, such as showing hidden items, plus moving or copying shortcuts – all for free. It also provides a spring-loaded path bar, cut and paste functionality and the ability to arrange folders on top in List view.

If you'd like to add more tabs to *Finder*, which allow you to browse multiple locations

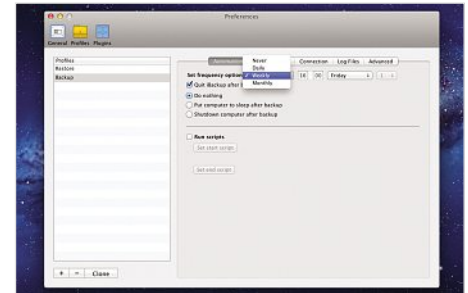
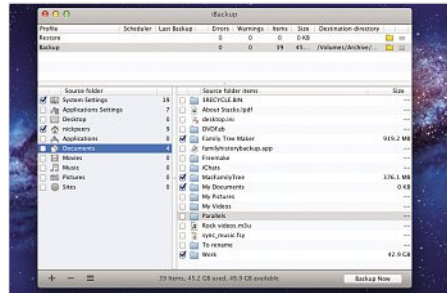
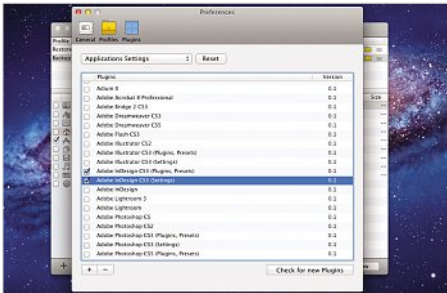
from a single *Finder* window, then *TotalFinder* (£12, <http://totalfinder.binaryage.com>) offers this functionality and much more – including a nifty dual-pane view that makes it easy to copy from one location to another.

Path Finder 6 (\$40, www.cocoatech.com/pathfinder) offers the same core functionality as *TotalFinder* and then some: a *Drop Stack* will group multiple files together before copying and moving them. There is also file queuing, tagging, batch renaming, support for multiple archive formats and much more.



TotalFinder will change the way you use *Finder* forever.

>> HOW TO / Back up your Mac

**01 Install, setup**

Get *iBackup* (www.grapefruit.ch/iBackup). Install and run from the Applications folder, choose File > Set Path, to back up on an external drive. Select *iBackup* > Preferences > Plugins tab and browse **System Settings** and **Applications Settings** to select your back-ups.

02 Select what to backup

Close the preferences pane. Select an item in the Source folder pane of the main *iBackup* window to view its contents – you can then pick which settings or folders to back up, or tick the Source folder entry to back up everything in that section.

03 Schedule and run

Click **Backup Now** to start backing up – while the first backup is being processed, choose *iBackup* > Preferences > Profiles tab. Select **Backup** under **Profiles** and then schedule the backup using the **Automation** tab – we suggest weekly. ●

A better archive unpacker

Finder's built-in archive unpacker is capable enough, but if you want wider support for less common formats, plus support for filenames with foreign characters, then *The Unarchiver* (<http://wakaba.c3.cx/s/apps/unarchiver.html>) is the tool for you. Simple to install, it's designed to seamlessly integrate with *Finder*.

More flexible backup

Apple's *Time Machine* and *Disk Utility* provide universal backup options, but they also swallow up huge amounts of drive space doing so. If you want something that produces smaller, focussed backups then consider *Carbon Copy Cloner* (www.bombich.com), which offers imaging and file-based tools for drives or selected folders. Meanwhile, *iBackup* (see the step-by-step guide) allows you to pick specific folders, plus system and apps preferences, so you can back up your settings in a fraction of the space.

Remove apps completely

When it comes to dumping applications from your Mac, simply dragging the Applications



Get an array of thumbnail previews of your currently open windows from the dock with **HyperDock**.

folder to the trash doesn't cut it. Make sure you also get rid of leftover files by installing the free *AppCleaner* (www.freemacsoft.net) tool – this searches common folder locations for preferences, caches and other leftover items, helping free up more space and preventing your drive from becoming cluttered with junk.

Customise Launchpad

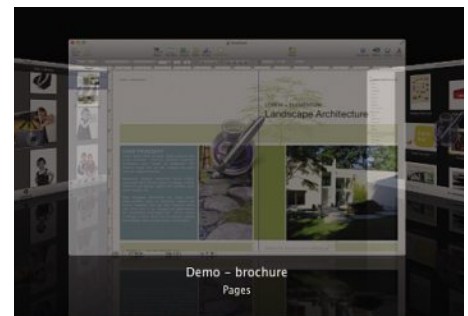
Launchpad is Lion's answer to the Home screen on the iPad and iPhone, but one major problem is OS X doesn't let you pick and choose which apps are displayed on it. However, all you need is a freebie called *Launchpad-Control* (<http://chaosspace.de/launchpad-control/>), which gives you control over the Launchpad: choose which items are displayed, and re-sort items by alphabetical order. There's full backup/restore too so you can tweak away with no fear.

Create more efficient disk space

OS X doesn't make it easy to work out where all your disk space has vanished to, but *Disk Inventory X* (www.derlien.com) does, providing



Launchpad-Control lets you choose exactly what applications get to sit on the Launchpad.



Switché gives a good-looking task-switching utility.

a visualisation of your drive, allowing you to spot space-hogging folders quickly.

Upgrade the task switcher

OS X's *Task Switcher* – press $\text{⌘} + \text{⇧} + \text{⌘}$ to access it – is perfectly functional, if somewhat limited. If you want something that looks better and offers more features, then *Switché* (\$7.99, <http://kapeli.com/switche>) is worth checking out. It allows you to switch between applications, windows or the windows of the currently selected app, and uses Cover Flow to display window previews and application icons in a much more visually appealing way.

Tweak your Magic Mouse settings

If you own a Magic Mouse, Magic Trackpad or MacBook glass trackpad, then you simply must install *MagicPrefs* (<http://magicprefs.com>). This beautifully written freebie allows you to tweak both touch sensitivity and tracking speed settings, plus customise variable finger clicks, swipes, pinches and other gestures to a variety of different functions and applications. You'll wonder how you ever lived without it. >>

Mimic Mountain Lion

Can't wait for the release of Mountain Lion? Get its best features now!

Can't wait to tap into the many new features being rolled out in Mountain Lion this summer? The good news is you can gain some of the functionality now. Sadly, not all of the apps offering these features are free, but by cherry picking which features will work best for you, you can take a short trip into the future today without breaking the bank.

Notification Center

Like the Notification Center introduced in iOS 5, Mountain Lion's rollout notifications tool allows the system and third-party apps to provide alerts via a roll-down bar at the top of the screen. If you want some of this functionality now, buy the latest version of *Growl* for £1.49 from the Mac App Store. This current version provides notifications just like Notification Center. The drawback is this version updates the *Growl* framework and breaks compatibility with older apps. If you're waiting for Mountain Lion – or you're running Snow Leopard or earlier, then download an older version for free from <http://growl.info> – you'll lose the rollout notifications, but will add support for older apps.

Messages

When Mountain Lion gets released, *iChat* will get a makeover, and a new name, *Messages*. It'll feature all the same functionality as *iMessage* on your iPad or iPhone running iOS 5, namely the ability to send unlimited text messages to



The one aspect of Mountain Lion you can try out right now is Messages Beta, which is replacing iChat.

other Macs and iOS devices with *iMessage* capabilities. *Messages* also allows you to move between devices when conversing with others, keeping everything in sync with *iMessage*.

Thankfully, the best bits of *iChat* – including the ability to converse with other IM networks – remain intact, and you can download a free, fully functional beta of *Messages* if you're running

Lion OS X 10.7.3 or later. Just head to www.apple.com/macosx/mountain-lion/messages-beta to get your copy.

Reminders and Notes

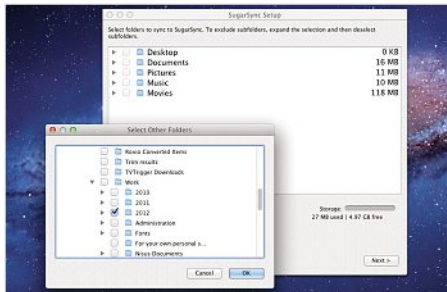
Mountain Lion also comes with other iOS apps, including *Reminders* and *Notes*. If you're looking for similar functionality in Lion, then you'll be

>> HOW TO / Get Document Sync with SugarSync



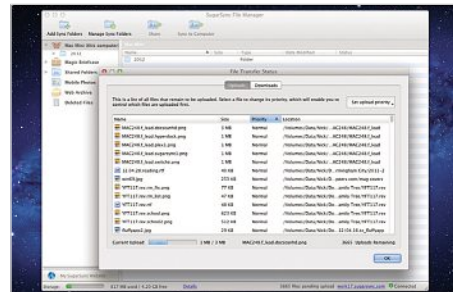
01 Get started

Go to <https://www.sugarsync.com/plans>, click **Download** to save *SugarSync Manager.dmg* to your hard drive. Once installed, open *Sugar Sync Manager*, click **Sign Up**, providing the details requested. Click **Next** twice, provide an icon and name and click **Next**.



02 Select folders

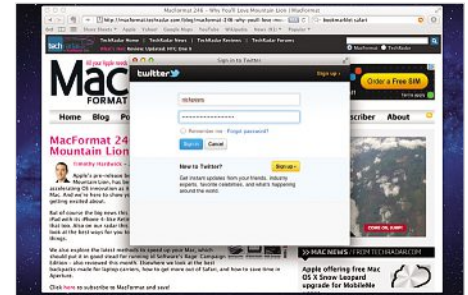
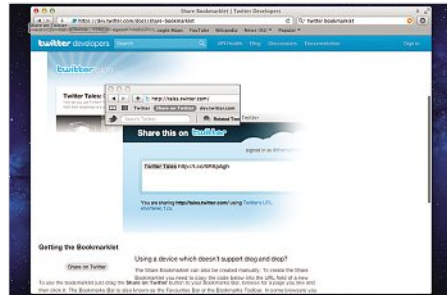
By default your documents, media and desktop folders will be selected – untick those if you wish, and click **Add More Folders** to select other folders if required. *SugarSync* will tell you if you've exceeded 5GB storage space. Click **Next** followed by **Finish**.



03 Manage folders

Click the *SugarSync* icon to manage folders, selecting **File Manager** to access the app's other features. Choose **File Transfer Status** to see how much data has transferred. Install *SugarSync* on another Mac, and sync the folders, plus access it from your mobile.

>> HOW TO / Create your own Share Sheets

**01 Set up share sheet folder**

Open *Safari*, right-click on the Bookmarks bar and choose **New Folder**. Name it and click OK - the folder will appear on the left of your Bookmarks bar, but you can drag it elsewhere. The process is similar for other browsers too, including *Chrome* and *Firefox*.

02 Add bookmarklets

Type the name of the service, such as 'Twitter' or 'Facebook', plus the word 'Bookmarklet' into the Search bar. You'll go to sites containing the Bookmarklets, but try and opt for the official one. Drag the Bookmarklet onto your Share Sheets folder, click OK.

03 Using bookmarklets

Add Bookmarklets for the sites you wish to share. You can add more sophisticated bookmarklets for other tasks, such as sharing via email (see www.messagingnews.com/node/2383). Just browse to a website, select the bookmarklet and log in if necessary. ●

spoiled for choice. For a *Reminders*-type app, try *Wunderlist*, which is free on the Mac and iOS App Stores, and can be used with other devices too. Plus, everything is held in the cloud.

When it comes to replicating *Notes* on your Mac, you have two choices: if you just want a text-based notes tool, try *Simplenote* (<http://simplenoteapp.com>). Your notes will be accessible on your Mac through a client such as *Notational Velocity* (<http://notational.net>) and on your iOS device through the *Simplenote* app and also via a web browser.

The same is true if you opt for *Evernote* (www.evernote.com). The advantage of *Evernote* is it allows you to capture additional material, including sound, video and photos.

AirPlay Mirroring

After its success on the iPad and iPhone, AirPlay Mirroring - whereby you can wirelessly beam

your display to a TV elsewhere in the home - is coming to the Mac with Mountain Lion. Can't wait? Try *AirParrot* from <http://airparrot.com>.

Document Sync

iCloud is already present in Lion, but Mountain Lion introduces improvements, one of which is Document Sync, which gives access to docs across all devices. Dropbox offers some of this, but you're restricted to the Dropbox folder.

A better solution is to use a backup and sync service like *SugarSync* (www.sugarsync.com), which gives access to your data from your iPad, iPhone and iPod touch as well as other computers. *SugarSync* allows you to pick and choose what you want to sync.

Share Sheets

Mountain Lion will make it easy for you to share links, media and other content via a variety of



Evernote offers a fully featured alternative to Notes.

sources, including *Messages*, email and Twitter. Share Sheets will work in a number of apps, including *Photo Booth*, *Reminders* and *Safari*, but you can create your own Share Sheets in *Safari* now by following the guide, above.

GateKeeper

GateKeeper is a set of tools designed to protect your Mac from potentially malicious apps. Its settings will be accessible from the *Security System Preferences* pane, allowing you to restrict which programs can be downloaded to your Mac according to whether or not they're Mac App Store products, or apps that come with a verified developer's ID, ensuring their veracity.

There are no third-party equivalents for Lion, aside from installing anti-virus software (*Sophos Anti-Virus for Mac Home Edition* is free from www.sophos.com), you can restrict access to apps on your Mac for other non-administrator users by setting up Parental Controls (use the Apps tab to set restrictions - an App Store option allows purchases to work automatically). It's not the same, but seeing as non-admins can't install apps anyway, it's the closest you'll come to emulating GateKeeper's features. ●



Get it first! The latest version of Growl provides a similar rollup notification to Mountain Lion.



Parental Controls give you the power to restrict which apps other little Mac users can access.

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"Use categories to sort spreadsheet tables in Numbers"

HOW TO ORGANISE YOUR ACCOUNTS IN iWORK P58

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How to...

● PHOTOS ● MOVIES ● MUSIC ● HOME ● SYSTEM



Matthew Bolton
Mac Tutor

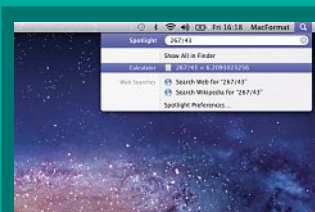
When this time of year comes around, it's always tempting to get a bit creative. There's plenty of scope to turn photos and videos from school holidays or trips abroad into great mementos for others to see.

We've got lots of excellent ways for you to do just that in this issue, no matter what your level of skill. Our tutorial on page 48 shows you how to make video slideshows out of your photos using *iMovie*, and we've got a guide to making a photo collage in *Pages* on page 56; both of these tutorials are easy to follow.

If you're happy to get your hands dirty in *Photoshop*, we'll show you how to turn your photos into planets (really!) on page 44. We'll also show you how to manually improve photos in *iPhoto* on page 46. Additionally, if you want to quickly edit a video you've taken, see our guide to using *QuickTime X* on page 50.

Importantly for MobileMe users, we'll also show you how to switch to iCloud, so there's no excuse for not using all the features of Apple's online service.

As ever, email any suggestions for tutorials to macformat@futurenet.com.



» DID YOU KNOW?

You can use Spotlight for more than just searching for files. Type sums into it for instant calculations, or use it to search for a dictionary definition.



BEFORE: Take one horizon-based landscape shot from your photo collection...

AFTER: ...And turn it into a planet-like spherical object like we've done here.



Create a world of your own

Make a planet-like sphere with a landscape shot and some Photoshop trickery

>> KEY INFO



DIFFICULTY
Expert



TIME NEEDED
20 minutes

WHAT YOU'LL NEED
Adobe Photoshop or Elements

This is a spectacular effect that can be achieved quite easily, but it does depend on having the right sort of image to start with. It's based around the **Polar Coordinates** feature, which takes a conventional rectangular image, then twists it round in a circle so that the left and right edges meet up.

Ideally, you'd use this technique with a 360-degree panorama where two ends would match up, but with the right preparation and a little work with the **Clone Stamp** tool, it's possible to make ordinary images work pretty well too.

You need a picture which includes the sky. This is then stretched outwards to form the backdrop for the new image. It's nice to have some

clouds in the sky to make it more interesting, but it's better to have smooth, featureless tones towards the top of the picture so that you don't get artificial-looking stretched details, which is why we've applied a gradient to the top of our image.

It's best if your image has quite a wide aspect ratio to start with, too, such as 16:9 or wider, since this will reduce the amount of horizontal stretching needed for the 'planet'.

*"This effect is based around the **Polar Coordinates** feature, which twists an image around a circle"*

The images that work best have a fairly blank foreground, such as our river scene. You need lots of good detail on the horizon, but avoid very tall buildings if you can, because these can be heavily distorted and can destroy the illusion.

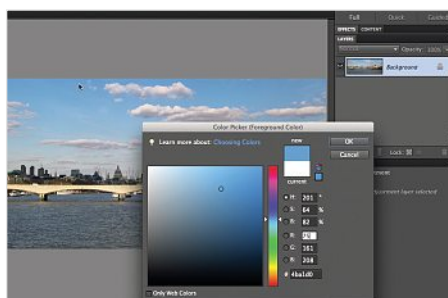
You'll quickly spot that the **Polar Coordinates** filter doesn't automatically produce a circular result. If the original image is rectangular, you'll get an ellipse, not a circle, so you'll need to use the **Transform** tool at some stage to adjust the proportions. Don't worry about squashing the aspect ratio and distorting buildings, as the filter applies such an extreme distortion effect of its own that it won't show.

Rod Lawton

>> HOW TO / Use the Polar Coordinates filter

**01 Crop photo**

For best results, the horizon needs to be about half way up the frame, so in this case we're cropping off a lot of the sky. We also need the left and right edges of the image to line up closely, and slightly rotating the Crop marquee helps, getting the horizon dead level.

**02 Create gradient**

The top of the sky will be extended to form the background. If we leave it as is, the clouds will form ugly streaks. So we'll fill the top part of the sky with a gradient. First, set the foreground colour to a good background colour – use the eyedropper to click an area of sky.

**03 Use the Gradient Editor**

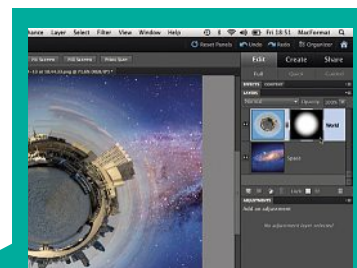
Select the Gradient tool, the Foreground to Background gradient from the drop-down menu on the options bar, then click the swatch to open the Gradient Editor. The left colour stop should be your sky colour. For the right stop, click the opacity gadget and set it to zero.

**04 Position gradient**

With the Gradient tool still selected, drag up from the centre of the sky towards the top (check the **Reverse** box on the options bar if the gradient is the wrong way round). The top part of the sky is replaced by a uniform gradient, but still looks a realistic 'sky' colour.

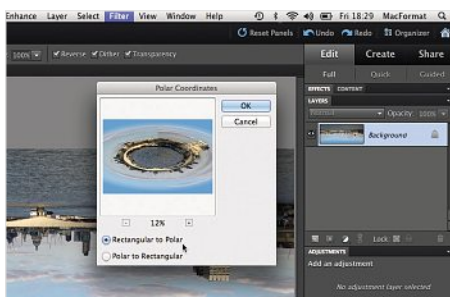
**05 Flip image**

The Polar Coordinates filter uses the top part of the image to create the sphere and the bottom to create the background, so you need to flip the image vertically. It sounds odd, but it's just the way it works. In *Elements*, select the Image > Rotate > Flip Vertical command.

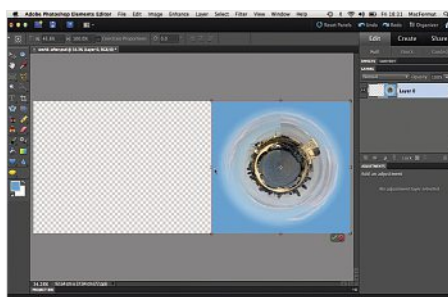


>> QUICK TIP

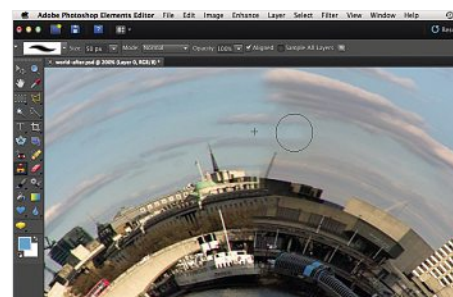
Create a circular mask: make the image a full layer, create a circular selection around it, feather the selection for a smooth blend then click the **Add layer mask** button on the **Layers** palette. Combine it with any background layer you like.

**06 Apply filter**

You'll find the Polar Coordinates filter on the Filter > Distort menu: **Rectangular to Polar** and **Polar to Rectangular**. The first is what turns a rectangular image into a sphere. Use the preview window and zoom controls to get an idea of what the effect will look like.

**07 Make the image square**

Because we started with a rectangular image, we've ended up with an ellipse. You could crop or transform the original to make it square from the start, but it's simpler to use the **Free Transform** tool ($\text{Command} + \text{T}$) at this stage, and you can crop off the dead space left behind.

**08 Hide the join**

Now to tidy up the join where the left and right sides of the original image meet. A little work with the **Clone Stamp** tool is all it takes to blend the two edges. Ideally, you'd start with a 360-degree panorama, but a single image like this works pretty well too. ●



BEFORE: This image has a dull yellow cast from the artificial lighting.

AFTER: A few manual histogram tweaks cleaned it up nicely, however.



Enhance images manually

Sometimes the best way to fix up your photos in iPhoto is to do it yourself

»» KEY INFO



DIFFICULTY
Intermediate



TIME NEEDED
15 minutes

WHAT YOU'LL NEED

iPhoto '11

The great thing about *iPhoto* is that it lets you make the most of your pictures without necessarily knowing a great deal about the technicalities. If you've got a picture that looks poorly exposed, flat or just generally off-colour, a click of the **Enhance** button can often work miracles.

But not always. Sometimes the automatic enhancements make the picture look worse, not better, and that's the case with the image we've got here. The original is rather dull, with a yellow cast from the artificial lighting, but the auto-enhanced version is worse, with harsher colours and a stronger colour cast.

So what's gone wrong, and how do you fix it? The fact is that *iPhoto*'s

Enhance button uses a fairly crude and simple set of adjustments for fixing photos. Indeed, you can see what it's done by switching to the **Adjust** panel and checking the positions of the sliders and the histogram at the top.

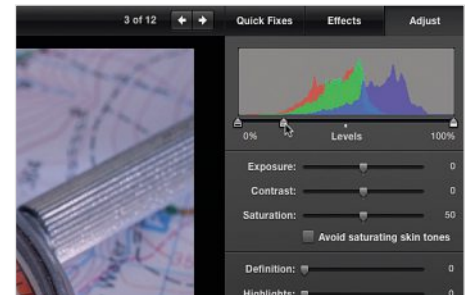
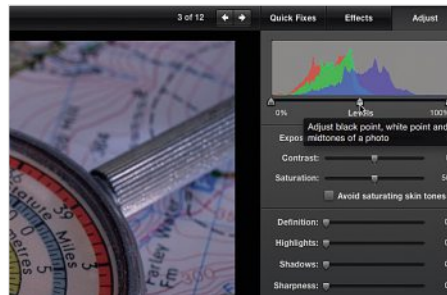
The point is that you can make all these adjustments yourself if the **Enhance** button doesn't work. If you've used image-editing software before, most of the options will look

"Sometimes the auto-enhancements make the picture look worse, not better, and that's the case here"

familiar - but there is a difference. The histogram and levels adjustments might look like those in *Photoshop* or *Elements*, but they don't behave in quite the same way. Adjusting either the black point or the white point sliders doesn't adjust the image midtones, or the overall brightness. And *iPhoto* doesn't show a single histogram to represent the brightness values in the picture - instead, it combines separate histograms for the red, green and blue components, or 'channels', of the image. This makes it easier to see the effects of 'clipping' when you make adjustments, and helps to understand why this can introduce colour shifts.

Rod Lawton

» HOW TO / Correct colour and brightness



01 Fix white balance

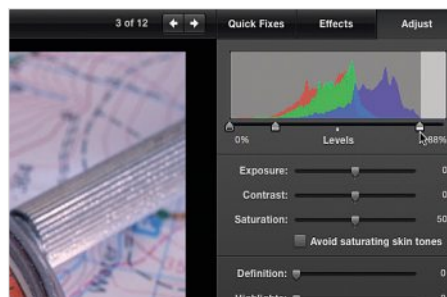
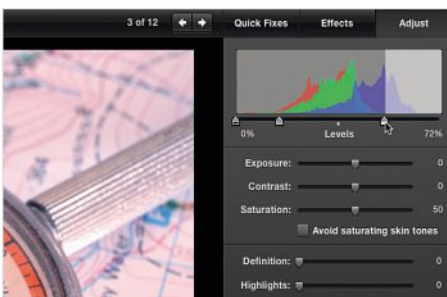
If the colour balance of the picture needs correcting, do this first, as the white balance adjustments also shift the colour channels in the histogram. The quickest route with this image is to select the white balance eyedropper and click a neutral part of the photo.

02 Assess histogram

Clicking the chromium case of this map measurement tool has neutralised the picture, but it's still dark. The histogram in the **Adjust** panel shows why – it doesn't reach all the way to the left (shadow) and right (highlight) ends of the scale, but there are sliders to fix this.

03 Adjust midtones

There is an **Exposure** slider below the histogram, but it's a fairly crude tool that doesn't offer the same control and subtlety as levels adjustments. In contrast to *Photoshop*, in *iPhoto* it's better to drag the midtone slider first to get the overall brightness about right.



04 Adjust highlights

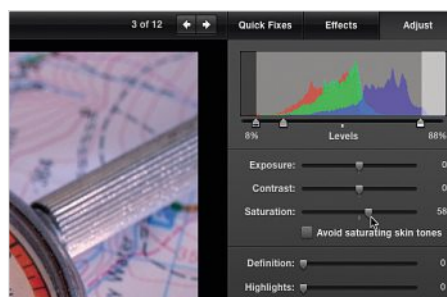
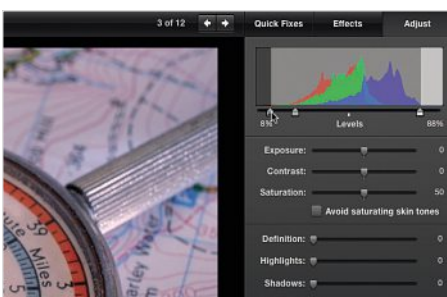
The contrast looks a little flat, but adjusting the white and black point sliders will fix this. Drag the white point slider to the left. You'll see that if we drag it past the end of the histogram, the blue channel is 'clipped', so that the highlights take on a red tinge...

05 Avoiding clipping

Position the white point slider carefully, just at the tail end of the histogram for the blue channel. This helps to retain clean, white highlights. You'll find images vary. Sometimes all three red, green and blue histograms will line up quite nicely, other times not!

» QUICK TIP

You may find it easier to click the **Enhance** button, then switch to the **Adjust** panel to undo adjustments that have gone too far. The **Enhance** button auto-adjusts the levels, adds a little saturation and adjusts the shadows to lighten them.



06 Adjust shadows

The picture still lacks contrast, because the left end of the histogram doesn't extend to the left end of the scale. So drag the black point slider to the end of the histogram. You can clip the shadows more than the highlights, because colour shifts in the dark tones are less obvious.

07 Increase saturation

Give your images more 'punch': increase the saturation. Don't take it too far, though, as the colours can start to look artificial, and you'll see from the histogram that some colours can start to 'clip' – increasing saturation tends to widen the histograms for the colour channels.

08 Increase definition

If a picture lacks crispness, it's tempting to try applying sharpening, but this only affects the fine detail and usually emphasises noise. The **Definition** slider, though, works over a much broader radius, and makes larger objects and outlines stand out more clearly. ●

Work with photos in iMovie

Even though iMovie is a video editor, you can use it to make great slideshows

» KEY INFO

DIFFICULTY
Basic

TIME NEEDED
20 minutes

WHAT YOU'LL NEED

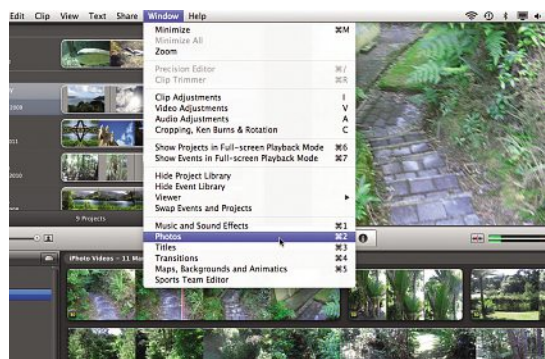
iMovie 9.0.4, photos stored in iPhoto or elsewhere, a basic understanding of the interface

The very name *iMovie* suggests moving images, so it's little wonder that this program excels at helping you edit your short or home movie with style. But what if you're not interested in filmmaking? What possible use could you make out of it?

If you like taking photos, you may appreciate the fact that *iMovie* is also adept at turning those images into slideshows. You can also incorporate photos within your project if you so choose. But placing a still image in your project wouldn't be very exciting, especially given that most cameras don't take shots in the now-traditional widescreen format, which leaves a lot of black space on your widescreen computer display or high-definition TV. Matters get a lot worse with those taken in the portrait orientation. Thankfully, *iMovie* handles these problems.

We'll show you how to import snaps from *iPhoto*, *Aperture* or elsewhere, and how to crop images and zoom into them to focus on specific parts. You can even move across your photo over time, panning and zooming from one part to another with just a few clicks.

Steve Paris



01 Photo access

Let's start from scratch and create a new project using the default settings. A blank project will appear top-left of the interface. You now need to reveal your photos. Although the **Event Library** (lower-left) does show an *Aperture* and *iPhoto* icon, you can only access videos stored in those programs from there. Go to **Window > Photos** or use the **⌘ + 2** keyboard shortcut instead.

» QUICK LOOK / Photos in the iMovie interface



Three options

When in **Crop** mode, switch between three settings by clicking on their respective names.

Done

Don't forget to click **Done...** otherwise you won't be allowed to further edit your film.

Preview

Preview your effect to make sure it works as expected before you settle on the design.

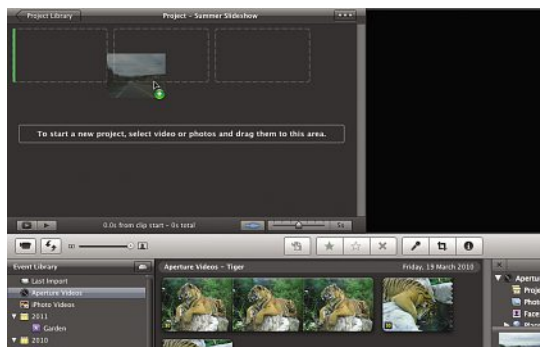
Turn around

You can rotate your photo in either direction thanks to these two buttons.



02 Browse through

A new section will appear lower-right of the interface. From there you can access any stills stored in *iPhoto* or *Aperture*. Even better, you can browse through your Events and Albums including such handy categories as Faces and Places. There's even a useful input field at the bottom to narrow down your search.



03 Automatic effect

Once you've found an image, drag it to your Project. It'll be auto-cropped so that it takes up the whole screen. *iMovie* will create an animation for you by panning from one part of the image to another and zooming in (or out) at the same time. This process may not focus on the part of the image you'd like, so you might need to customise it.



04 The Crop tool

To do this, click the image in your Project then click the toolbar's **Crop** tool. You can also trigger it by hitting the **C** key or by going to **Window > Cropping, Ken Burns & Rotation**. The preview section changes into an editable area, showing your photo, a green rectangle and a red one, and a yellow arrow. These alter pan and zoom.



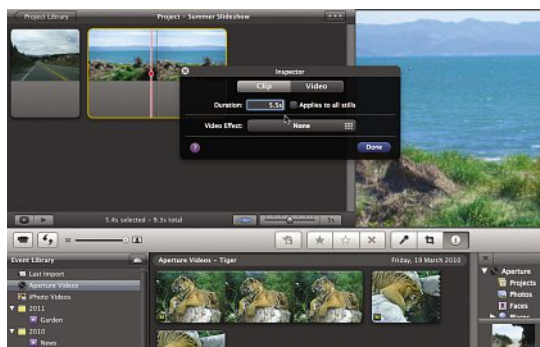
05 The start frame

The green rectangle shows where the animation will start. Click inside it to select it. You can then move it around to a better position. You can also resize that rectangle by dragging its edges. By default, *iMovie* won't let you create a selection bigger than the image's width, but click on **Allow Black** to change that setting.



06 The end frame

The red rectangle is the effect's last frame, which you can reposition and resize just like the start frame. You can preview the effect by clicking the button left of **Done**. To reverse the effect, click the small square with two curved arrows, lower-left of the red triangle. The yellow line shows the effect's direction over the photo.



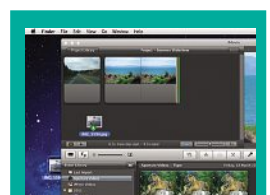
07 Duration

To change the length of time an image appears on the screen, double-click it to bring up the **Clip Inspector**. The **Duration** field shows its current length (four seconds by default). You can alter it to a length you prefer. You can also change all your photos' duration or merely the selected one using the **Applies to all stills** tick box. ●

>> EXPERT TIP

Still duration

As you saw in the tutorial's last step, any still brought into *iMovie* will be given a four-second duration by default, which may not suit your needs. As with most settings in *iMovie*, you can customise this default behaviour to suit you. This is done via the **Project Properties** which you can access from the **File** menu or by using the **⌘ + J** keyboard shortcut. All options affecting images can be found at the bottom of that drop-down sheet: you can set the default duration from one to ten seconds, and even choose whether or not to apply a **Ken Burns** effect to your photo (Apple's name for that pan and zoom animation). The new duration will apply to all photos added to that project going forward, but if you'd like to affect all your current images, simply make sure **Applies to all photos** is selected.



>> QUICK TIP

Your photos don't have to be stored in *iPhoto* or *Aperture* to be used in *iMovie*. If you have them stored somewhere in the *Finder*, you can drag them directly from there.

Edit videos for free

Trim, combine and share your videos using QuickTime Player

»» KEY INFO

DIFFICULTY
Beginner

TIME NEEDED
30 minutes

WHAT YOU'LL NEED

Some video clips, QuickTime Player 10, internet connection

With the likes of *iMovie* and *Final Cut Pro* available to cater for all your video editing needs, it can be easy to overlook the fact that your Mac comes with *QuickTime Player 10*: a free basic video editor. Granted, it's nowhere near as sophisticated as *iMovie* or *Final Cut Pro*, but it won't cost you anything either.

QuickTime Player is perfect if you're just starting out with video editing, and for those situations where you quickly want to make some alterations to a video before sharing it with family and friends.

Say you've been filming your children playing out in the garden, and the bit you'd like to share is halfway through the clip you've recorded. With *QuickTime Player*, you can quickly chop off the preceding and following parts, leaving you with the highlight to share. The app also

enables you to join clips together, meaning you can easily create a highlights video from an array of recordings, which is something you can't do on an iOS device without a video-editing app. We'll show you how on the next page.

In order to edit your video clips, you'll first need to copy them to your Mac from whatever device you used to record them. This could be your camcorder, or iOS device. Connect the camera to your Mac using the cable it came with, and switch it on. Now click the *Finder* icon in your Dock, then click the *Go* menu and

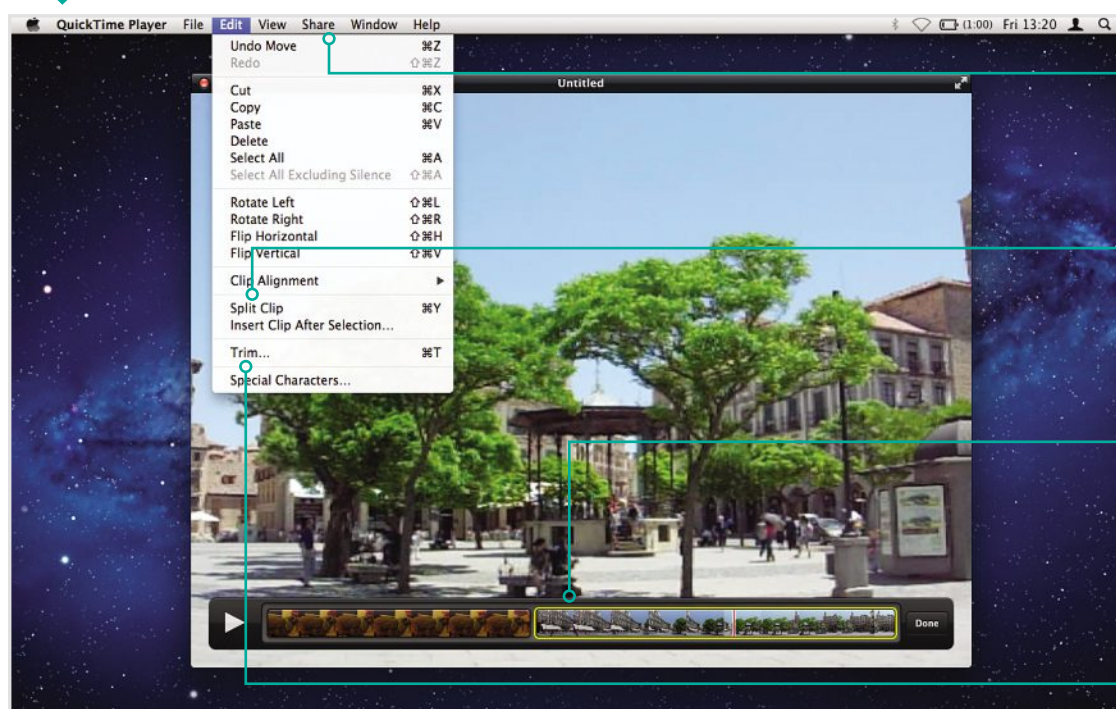
"It can be easy to overlook the fact that your Mac comes with QuickTime, a free basic video editor"

select **Applications**. Double-click the *Image Capture* icon, and you should see your camera appear in the left column under **Devices**. Click it and your images and videos will show up on the right. If it's video you shot on an iPhone, iPod touch or iPad, the filename will end .MOV. Drag the clips you'd like to use to your desktop – this will make them easier to find later. Now quit *Image Capture* and disconnect your camera.

Before you open *QuickTime* to start editing, click the *Finder* icon, go to the *Finder* menu and select **Preferences**. Click the *Sidebar* button and make sure **Desktop** is ticked: this will save you time when it comes to opening your video clips. Now open *QuickTime Player*, which is in your **Applications** folder. If it isn't there, go to www.apple.com/quicktime to download it for free.

Laurence Cable

»» QUICK LOOK / The QuickTime Player interface



Share menu

Share your video over the internet, or to other apps on your Mac such as *iMovie*.

Split clip

Chop a clip in two to add more footage in the middle.

Main control bar

Rearrange clips that make up your video: View > Show Clips.

Trim

Trim the start and end of a clip, leaving you with the bit you want.

» HOW TO / Edit and share videos with QuickTime Player



01 Open your video

In *QuickTime Player 10*, click **File > Open** File. Click **Desktop** on the left, then select your video and click **Open**. Your clip will appear with a set of controls towards the bottom. Let's start by trimming off either end of the clip. Select **Edit > Trim**. A yellow bar appears at the bottom.



02 Trim your clip

Drag the left-hand end of the yellow bar to the right to trim the start of the clip, and pull the other end to the left to cut off the end. As you work, click the **Play** button on the far left to play back the clip as it will be once you've trimmed it. Adjust the yellow bar to suit.



03 Add more footage

When you've got it just right, click **Trim** and the yellow bar will disappear. If that's all you want to do, skip to step 7 to save and share your video. But let's add a second clip to the video. Select **Edit > Add Clip to End**. Find the video on your Mac and click **Choose media**.



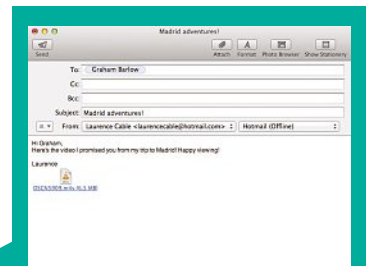
04 Rearrange things

Your original clip is the section on the left, and the one you've just added is to the right. If this is the order you'd like them in, click **Done**. But if you'd rather the second clip play first, drag it to the left, and the original one will shift right. When you're happy, click **Done**.



05 More advanced edits

Once you've added multiple clips, you can rearrange, trim and split them using **View > Show Clips** option. To trim a given clip, double-click it and follow the instructions in steps 2 and 3. To add footage to the middle of a clip, click it once to make a thin yellow line appear around it.



» QUICK TIP

To send your completed video to friends or family via email, click the **Share** menu in *QuickTime Player* and choose **Mail**. It will export the video and drop it into an email as an attachment. Long clips may take some time to send due to their size.



06 Split clips

Press **Play** and wait for the red time marker to arrive at the point where you'd like to add more footage, then click **Pause**. Drag the marker to position it more precisely if you wish. Then go to **Edit > Split Clip**. You can split clips into multiple pieces and rearrange as you please.



07 Export your video

With your video perfected, click **Done**. Now it's time to save a copy. Choose **File > Export**. Give it a name, choose where to save it, and pick a format. For most purposes, it's best to leave the setting on **iPad, iPhone 4 & Apple TV**, if available. Click **Export** to save your video.



08 Share it with friends

QuickTime Player also enables you to share video directly to a range of websites or other apps on your Mac. You'll find the options in the **Share** menu, including **Facebook** and **YouTube**. Remember only to share videos that you have the legal rights to! ●

Make music on your iPad, iPhone or iPod touch

Making music on the move has never been easier with Apple's iOS devices



>> QUICK TIP

An increasing number of 'all in one' devices are available that let you connect an iPad to a MIDI keyboard directly using a Dock connector. The device sits on top of the keyboard so you can play it and use the touchscreen at the same time.

When Apple opened up the iOS platform to developers, it turned the company's portable devices from useful devices into essential ones. Suddenly, as well as checking your mail or taking a picture, there were apps to do almost anything you could imagine. Gaming was probably the biggest category of apps, but music came a close second, and as Apple's devices have matured, the scope of what you can achieve musically on your iPad, iPhone or iPod touch has increased massively. From synths and sequencers, to samplers and multitrack recorders, mobile music-making has never been easier.

To begin with, most apps were fairly simple beatboxes or synths, but the increasing power of the hardware has meant that you can now do things that would have been thought impossible just a few years ago. A new iPad or iPhone 4S has more computing power than many computers did 15 or 20 years ago, when musicians were paying thousands to make tracks on their Macs. And as time goes on, developers are getting more adept at coding for iOS, to the point that some apps will let you record, program, mix

and export whole tracks without ever going near a computer. It's true of course that Macs are also very powerful, and some people will want to use their iOS device while on the move, and revert to their Mac when they're back in the studio. As we will see, this is perfectly possible.

One thing to remember is that just as with Macs, the more powerful your device, the easier things will generally be. Even though a surprising number of music apps will run on an iPhone 3GS, using an iPhone 4 or preferably a 4S will usually provide a smoother experience. The same goes for a newer iPod touch or iPad, and it's always a good idea to have the latest revision of iOS installed too. Many

music apps are designed to run on all three types of device and only a handful are specific to newer models due to power requirements. While they are less complex than desktop apps, they're also far cheaper, with few breaking the £10 barrier and many cheaper still.

Tech considerations

Before you start making music on the move, you might want to think about hardware. The speakers in your device aren't exactly earth-shaking, so it's worth investing in some decent headphones. Consider a pair of portable speakers or, if you're a serious user, a special audio interface such as Alesis' excellent StudioDock, which provides pro-level audio and MIDI in and out for iPads. IK Multimedia also makes some great iOS accessories for getting sound in and out, including the iRig for connecting a guitar, iRig MIX for DJ'ing and iRig Mic for direct, high-quality recording. You can make music without any additional kit, of

"The scope of what you can do musically on your iPad, iPhone or iPod touch has increased massively"

Add another dimension to your compositions with iOS music-making apps.



course, but some decent playback hardware always helps.

Apps for making music on your iPad, iPhone or iPod touch fall broadly into a few main categories, the first of which is instruments. These tend to be pretty straightforward and have one purpose: to generate sound. They all have a touch interface but many can also be triggered from a MIDI keyboard via the USB camera adaptor, or a specialised MIDI-in device such as the iRig MIDI from IK Multimedia. Instruments range from basic and free through to relatively advanced, and there are hundreds to choose from. Sometimes they are a recreation of a real instrument like *Organ +*, *Pocket Organ C3B3*, or one of the many piano emulators out there; other times they are synths. Some of our favourites include *Animoog*, a remarkably advanced synthesizer for more experienced or adventurous users, *Korg iMS20* and *NLogSynth PRO*. These are great for playing live or just noodling, and remember that you can always record the output of your device to your Mac using a simple audio cable. There are also numerous virtual guitar apps, many free or inexpensive.

Grooveboxing

Some instruments come as part of a more complex app that you might call a "groovebox", and these let you not only program music and tweak sounds, but make beats and patterns as well. Groovebox apps are modelled on real hardware grooveboxes like Korg's iElectrube. It's a really accessible

tool for making electronic music but it also has some hidden depths if you care to explore them. Due to its interface it's for iPad only, and there's even a special Gorillaz edition produced in collaboration with the band and with a distinctively retro look and feel.

In the same vein, Propellerhead makes *ReBirth* for all iOS devices, a new version of its ground-breaking analogue sequencing software that helped to kick off the electronic music revolution. Modelled on old style sequencing hardware, you can sequence and program songs, tweak synths and add effects to make old school electro, and with zooming it even works well on the iPhone. For the more experimental musician, Yamaha's *TNR-i* app for all iOS devices is a software version of its Tenori-On hardware. It's a futuristic grid-based composition tool which you can use instantly with no musical knowledge, or in much more advanced ways by delving into its more complex control features. There are other groovebox

"Remember, you can always record the output of your device to your Mac using a simple audio cable"



apps that are well worth checking out too, like *BleepBox* and *Electrify To Go* amongst others. You could probably include Steinberg's excellent *Loopmash* for iOS here as well.

iPhone specials

A couple of newer apps that don't quite fit into the above category are *Figure* and *iMaschine*. Both are designed for the smaller screen of the iPhone but will scale up to the iPad, and really show off what skilled developers can do with the iOS platform. *Figure* has been made by Propellerhead, an experienced producer of desktop software, and has a highly stylised and friendly interface for letting you program and sequence beats, basslines and lead sounds within its own environment. Geared towards electronic music, it's



»» QUICK TIP

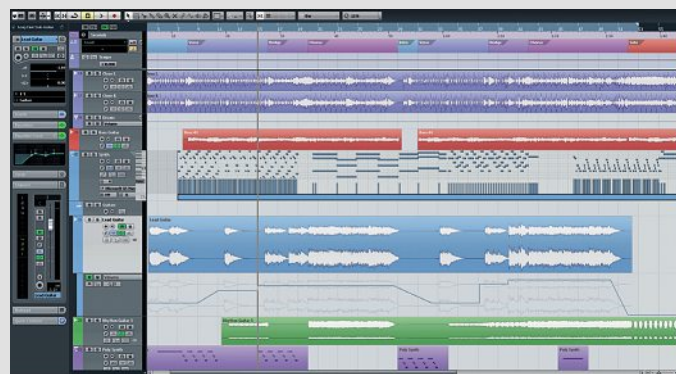
Thanks to recent updates you can now send sound from *GarageBand* for iOS to Airplay and Bluetooth devices. So it's possible to work with them wirelessly, connecting to your hi-fi, for example, without the need for cables.

»» HOW TO / Make music on your Mac

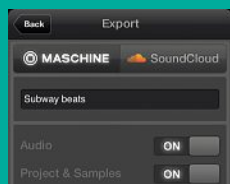
iOS devices are increasingly capable, but heavy duty music production is still done on desktop Macs thanks to their greater speed and capacity.

Apps like *GarageBand* and *iMaschine* let you start a project on a mobile device then continue and finish it on your Mac (though not the other way round). To make music on your Mac, you can use *GarageBand*, perhaps *Logic*, *Ableton Live* or *Cubase*, as well as an audio interface, a MIDI keyboard and some decent speakers. The software generally comes in 'lite'

versions for those getting started, with options to upgrade later if you wish. Sometimes it even comes free with a MIDI keyboard, which you will need if you plan to play virtual instruments or drums by hand (the preferred method). A simple audio interface priced at between £100 and £200 will give you high quality, low latency recording options over a USB connection, and the ability to connect a good pair of headphones and speakers. Powered speakers at around £200 can make a huge difference.



A desktop program like Cubase offers greater power and flexibility than iOS apps.



>> QUICK TIP

Soundcloud is the preferred online music hosting site at present, used by most musicians. A basic account is free and direct upload support is being gradually built into many mobile and desktop apps.

tremendous fun. Native Instruments' *iMaschine* also comes from a highly experienced team. It's a mini sequencer with built-in drum kits and instrument sounds, plus the ability to let you sample and edit your own sounds and use them as part of your patterns. Helpfully, *iMaschine* lets you export your projects back to your Mac and open them in the full desktop version of the software, as well as upload projects directly from your phone to Soundcloud. This is also true of Apple's own *GarageBand*, as we will see next.

21st century DAWs

Another major category of music apps could be termed mini Digital Audio Workstations, or DAWs. As well as having instruments, these let you record audio as part of a project, add effects and mix tracks. As such they are as close to a desktop app as you can currently get on iOS. The most advanced of these is, perhaps not surprisingly, *GarageBand* for all of Apple's iOS devices. As well as being remarkably cheap, it's a triumph of design and a prime example of how to fit tons of features into a small space while maintaining usability. A recent update brought some much-needed new features, making it pretty hard to beat for music-making on the move.

GarageBand for iOS has some really amazing instruments built in. These include a range of pianos and organs, guitars and basses, with clever chord and auto-play features as well as strings that can be plucked and bent. There are several drum kits that you



Figure is Propellerheads' new iOS app, with a fresh and intuitive take on programming.

can play by hand or let the app randomise for you, and Smart Strings offers a complete orchestra. You can also record audio tracks, either through the built-in mic or preferably a dedicated input device connected via the Dock connector. There's a

"GarageBand for iOS has some amazing instruments, such as guitars with clever chord features"

suite of guitar effects and a sampler with audio editing, so you can even sample your own sounds as well as recording conventional tracks. You can now edit MIDI clips that have been recorded and import audio files, as well as choose from the many Apple loops that are supplied, add effects and mix tracks on your device. There's a limit of eight tracks, but when you reach it you can choose to send your project in its raw, editable state, over to your Mac. From there it can be opened in the desktop version of *GarageBand*, where you can keep adding tracks as well as effects and instruments. So *GarageBand* for iOS is a truly great sketchpad and integrates beautifully with your desktop Mac.

Beyond GarageBand

There are other fully featured music production apps for iOS of course, though few approach the elegance of *GarageBand*. *NanoStudio* is very powerful, with a multitude of instruments and a more conventional hardware-like look to it, and works very well on any size of iOS device. Like similar apps, it lets you share tracks via Soundcloud, though not in this case back to your Mac in an editable form. *FL Studio Mobile* and *Mobile HD* are also very accomplished apps, bringing desktop levels of flexibility, recording and programming power to your handheld device. With lots of instruments, effects and tools, it's an excellent way to compose music on the move.

In the rich iOS ecosystem there are even more apps that fall under the

>> HOW TO / Mix down your music

Apps that let you make music on your iOS device, be they instruments, grooveboxes or whole production environments, will all of course work through the built-in audio hardware of the device. When it comes to getting tracks off the device for use elsewhere you usually have several options, depending on the app. The most obvious is to simply record the audio output using a basic mini jack-to-mini jack cable connected to your Mac's audio input. A slightly more elegant method is to capture an onboard recording - most apps support this in some way - and then send that file to your Mac, or

alternatively upload it to Dropbox, Soundcloud, iCloud or other web service.

In *GarageBand* and *iMaschine*, raw project data can be sent back to your Mac and edited and added to, but this option isn't always available. Using something like the Line6 MIDI Mobilizer however, you can transfer, back up and play MIDI files between Mac and iOS app. With specialised hardware like the *Alesis StudioDock* you can play iOS instruments from your Mac and vice versa, using MIDI out.



When mixing down, keep quality settings at maximum.

>> HOW TO / Take a GarageBand project from iPad to Mac**01 Build your project**

Make sure you have the newest versions of *GarageBand* on your iOS device and your Mac. Create and work on a project in *GarageBand* on the iPad or iPhone then when you reach the track limit, hit the **My Songs** button to go to the project manager.

02 Choose a song

Tap the **Edit** button and the project icons will wobble. Select one or more projects and then tap the arrow button at the top-left of the screen to reveal the sharing menu. Select **Share Song Via iTunes**. In other cases you may use the alternative options.

03 Choose a format

In the next menu you have two options. If you tap the *iTunes* icon, the track will be mixed down to a single audio file and you have the option of various MP3 quality settings, or a CD quality AIFF. Tap the *GarageBand* icon and the raw project data is collected.

**04 Connect to iTunes**

Connect your iPad or iPhone to your Mac, or if you have wireless syncing enabled, it may already appear in *iTunes*' sidebar. Go to the device and then the **Apps** tab, and scroll down to the **File Sharing** area. Find *GarageBand* in the **Apps** list and you should see its documents.

05 Drag to your Mac

Find the documents you want and then drag and drop them from the file sharing area in *iTunes* to your Mac's desktop or another folder. The file contains all the MIDI, audio recordings and project data including anything you may have recorded into the mobile app.

06 Open in GarageBand Mac

Either double-click the file to open it in *GarageBand* on your Mac or use *GarageBand*'s **File > Open** command. You should see that the project imports seamlessly, complete with effects. You can now continue adding tracks, instruments and effects to the project. ●

umbrella of music, even if they are not quite the same as those that let you create it. DJ apps, for example, clutter the App Store, most of which read from your device's playlists and let you spin, scratch, mix and juggle tracks as well as usually providing effects and other DJ-friendly features. Simply connect an audio cable to your phone or iPad and you can get the party started.

Guitar effects are also well represented, and apps like IK Multimedia's *AmpliTube* suites bring an incredible level of realism to any guitar sounds you

play through them. Musicians really do use their iPhones or iPads as part of their live rigs, thanks to the power they offer. Yet another category of apps is controllers: apps that link up with desktop software to give you remote, hands-on control. Some of the best include, in no particular order, *Touchable* for *Ableton Live*,

"Apps like AmpliTube bring an incredible level of realism to any guitar sounds you play through them"

the *Cubase iC* controller, *TouchOSC* and *V-Control Pro*. These don't make music in themselves but let you control your desktop software, and so can be invaluable in studios.

Sound out your talents

Apple's iOS devices go from strength to strength, and over time the limits of what you can achieve musically with them are being steadily eroded. So there's no longer anything to fear about composition – whether you're a beginner or a pro, there's something out there that can improve your skills and the sound of your tracks.

Hollin Jones

**>> QUICK TIP**

Never compress audio files until you have to. If you're exporting a master copy of a track, do it at full CD quality wherever possible.

Share snaps by using a collage made in Pages.



Create a photo collage

Collect and share your photos by creating a collage in Pages

>>> KEY INFO

 **DIFFICULTY**
Beginner

 **TIME NEEDED**
30 minutes

WHAT YOU'LL NEED
Pages '09

We all know how easy it is to share photos online with *iPhoto* or via iCloud's Photo Stream, but what about when you want to get back to the old school and print them? *iPhoto* offers some great photo printing options and you can even create your own printed photo books, but don't overlook *Pages* because it also has a few tricks up its sleeve.

One such use is to drag and drop your photos onto a blank *Pages* document and arrange them in a collage. Just like sticking physical images to a piece of card, *Pages* allows you to arrange and crop the images as you wish. But unlike analog collage creation, the application also offers more detailed

features such as adding borders and resizing your images. You can even adjust the layout of your images at any time without the hassle of peeling glued photos from your collage and repositioning them. So not *that* old school after all.

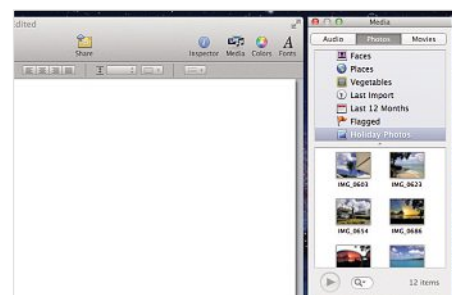
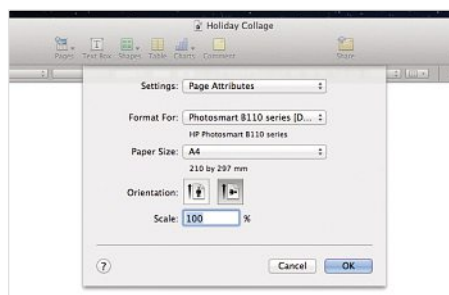
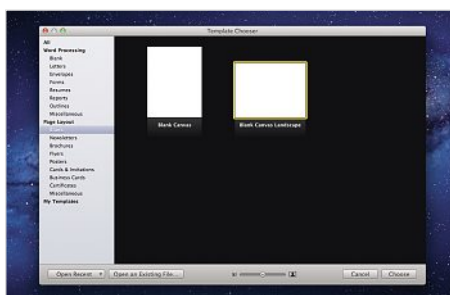
In this tutorial, we'll show you how to turn a blank *Pages* canvas into a colourful collection of your photos that can then be printed at a size that suits you. Having a decent photo

"Just like sticking physical images to a piece of card, Pages allows you to arrange images as you wish"

printer will obviously benefit you here, as will selecting quality photo paper and beginning with well-taken photos in the first place. But remember that a black and white collage is always an option if you don't have the required tools available. Higher resolution images will also make for a better outcome, especially if you intend to print your collage at a bigger size than A4 or you are using a handful of images at a larger size on the page.

To follow this tutorial, start by gathering your favourite photos into a folder on your Mac or an album in *iPhoto*. Once you've done that, launch *Pages* to begin creating your own photo collage.

Ben Harvell

>> HOW TO / Create a photo collage in Pages**01 Orientation**

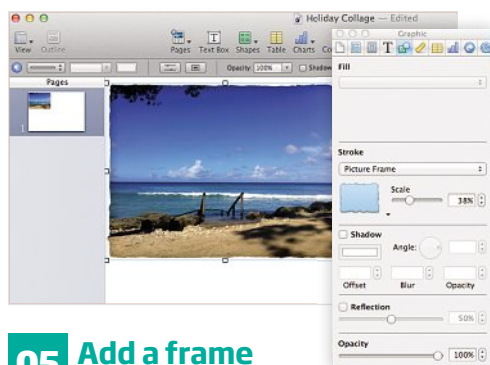
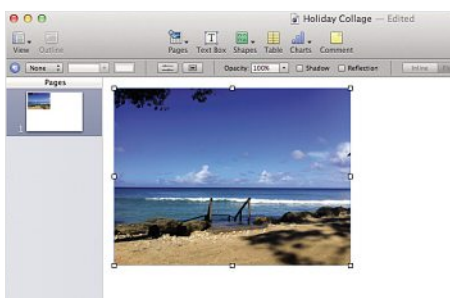
Start by launching *Pages* and selecting a blank page layout document from the **Template Chooser** in either portrait or landscape orientation, depending on your preference. Landscape orientation is best when using primarily landscape photos and vice versa.

02 Set the size

Click **File > Page Setup** and select a paper size from the drop-down menu. By default the page size is A4 but you can make it smaller or larger. Before you set the size, make sure you have the right sized paper and that your printer can print at this size.

03 Media browser

Click the **Media** button at the top-right of the interface and locate the photo album or *iPhoto* event in which you have stored the photos you want to use in your collage. Alternatively, you can open a folder in the *Finder* containing your photos if you wish.

**04 Place an image**

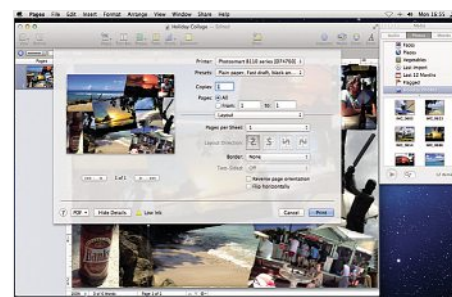
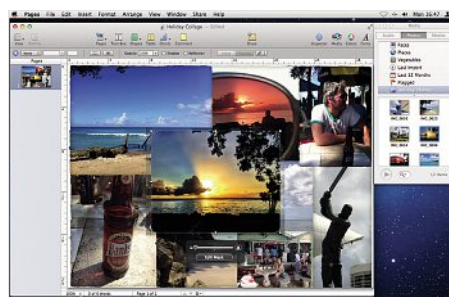
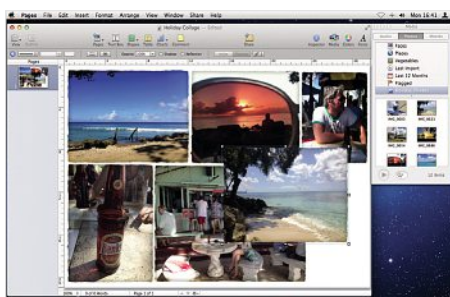
Drag an image you want to use from the **Media Browser** or *Finder* onto your document. Select the image you have added and use the boxes at the corner of the image to resize it as you wish. Click and drag the image to a new position on your document.

05 Add a frame

With the image selected, click the **Inspector** button at the top-right of the interface then click the **Object** tab (fifth from the left). Select **Stroke > Picture Frame** and choose a picture frame style to apply to the image and adjust the frame size as needed.

>> QUICK TIP

You can rotate collage images for a more dynamic look. When an image is selected, hover the cursor over one of its corners and hold the **⌘** key until the cursor changes to a curved line. Click and drag to rotate your image to a new angle.

**06 Guidelines**

Add more images to your document in the same way as step 4 and select **View > Show Rulers** to place rulers around it. Position the images evenly across your document using the ruler as a guide. A grey line appears on the X and Y axis rulers as you move an image.

07 More images

Add more images to your collage, adjusting the size of each until you've filled the canvas. If you need more room, use the **Mask With Shape** feature from the **Format** menu, or overlap images using the **Arrange** menu's **Bring Forward** and **Send Backward** options.

08 Print it out

When you're happy with your collage you can print it out from *Pages* using **File > Print** or you can export your collage from the **Share** menu. Exporting the collage as a PDF file will make it easier to send it to others via email or post it to the web. ●

Categorise tables in Numbers

Sort your spreadsheet tables using categories for easier analysis and editing

>> KEY INFO

DIFFICULTY
Intermediate

TIME NEEDED
10 minutes

WHAT YOU'LL NEED
Numbers '09

When it comes to organising your data on a *Numbers* spreadsheet table there are a variety of ways to sort figures, positioning them in order from low to high and so on. The same is true with text, however, and categorising information in this way can help make complex tables of information far easier to deal with.

By using the **Categorize by This Column** feature on a *Numbers* table you can quickly create categories based on the information you have already provided. For example, if you have created a monthly list of household bills as we have in this tutorial, you can use the **Categorize** feature to sort them into categories based on the type of bill.

In our example the table is broken up into categories such as Travel, Personal and Utility to better separate out the type of bills included. Once you have created these categories, they can be expanded and collapsed to show and hide them as you need without affecting the information within them. You can also create sub-categories within the categories you create, such as whether a bill is

"Adding categories to tables is easy and will save you time when it comes to analysing and editing your data"

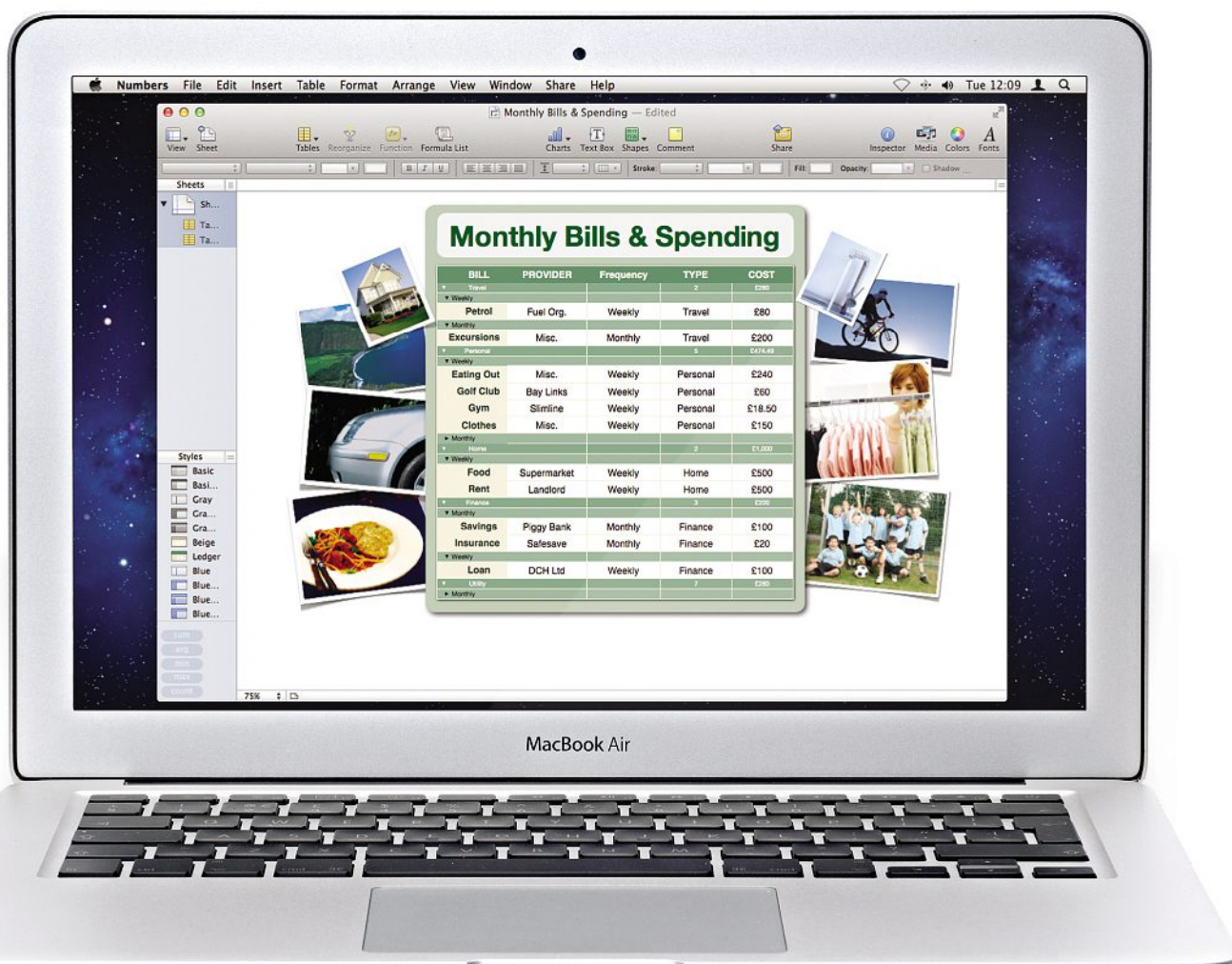
weekly or monthly, as in our example. This sort of subdivision of categories is largely up to you.

With categories included in your table, further adjustments can be made including adding information to denote the number of items in a category as well as producing a subtotal amount for each category.

Adding categories to your tables is easy and will save you time when it comes to analysing and editing your data, and categorisation can be applied to a wide range of tables in *Numbers*. To follow this tutorial you will need to use a table you have already created or you can simply copy our table example and follow the steps from there.

Ben Harvell

Implement categories in your tables for clearer delineation.



>> HOW TO / Add categories in Numbers

BILL	PROVIDER	Frequency	TYPE	COST
Petrol	Fuel Org.	Weekly	Travel	£50
Eating Out	Misc.	Weekly	Personal	£100
Food	Supermarket	Weekly	Home	£500
Savings	Piggy Bank	Monthly	Finance	£100
Electricity	Sparks Ltd	Monthly	Utility	£50
Rent	Landlord	Weekly	Home	£500
Mobile	Dialcom	Monthly	Utility	£50
Loan	DCH Ltd	Weekly	Finance	£100
Golf Club	Bay Links	Weekly	Personal	£50
TV	Arview	Monthly	Utility	£50
Phone	Dialcom	Monthly	Utility	£50
Magazines	Past Pubs	Monthly	Personal	£50
Clothes	Misc.	Weekly	Personal	£50
Insurance	Safesave	Monthly	Finance	£20
Gas	Gas Co.	Monthly	Utility	£50

BILL	PROVIDER	Frequency	TYPE	COST
Petrol	Fuel Org.	Weekly	Travel	£50
Eating Out	Misc.	Weekly	Personal	£100
Food	Supermarket	Weekly	Home	£500
Savings	Piggy Bank	Monthly	Finance	£100
Electricity	Sparks Ltd	Monthly	Utility	£50
Rent	Landlord	Weekly	Home	£500
Mobile	Dialcom	Monthly	Utility	£50
Loan	DCH Ltd	Weekly	Finance	£100
Golf Club	Bay Links	Weekly	Personal	£50
TV	Arview	Monthly	Utility	£50
Phone	Dialcom	Monthly	Utility	£50
Magazines	Past Pubs	Monthly	Personal	£50
Clothes	Misc.	Weekly	Personal	£50
Insurance	Safesave	Monthly	Finance	£20
Gas	Gas Co.	Monthly	Utility	£50

BILL	PROVIDER	Frequency	TYPE	COST
Petrol	Fuel Org.	Weekly	Travel	£50
Eating Out	Misc.	Weekly	Personal	£100
Food	Supermarket	Weekly	Home	£500
Savings	Piggy Bank	Monthly	Finance	£100
Electricity	Sparks Ltd	Monthly	Utility	£50
Rent	Landlord	Weekly	Home	£500
Mobile	Dialcom	Monthly	Utility	£50
Loan	DCH Ltd	Weekly	Finance	£100
Golf Club	Bay Links	Weekly	Personal	£50
TV	Arview	Monthly	Utility	£50
Phone	Dialcom	Monthly	Utility	£50
Magazines	Past Pubs	Monthly	Personal	£50
Clothes	Misc.	Weekly	Personal	£50
Insurance	Safesave	Monthly	Finance	£20
Gas	Gas Co.	Monthly	Utility	£50

01 Open a table

Start by opening an existing *Numbers* table or creating one from scratch using a blank template. Here we have a list of monthly bills, their cost, frequency and the information about whom the bill is paid to. The information is fairly mixed up and needs to be organised.

02 Add a new column

If you don't have a Type column in your table, it helps to add one so you can better categorise the information. Here we have added the type of bill to better understand each one. We have added Travel, Personal, Home, Finance and Utility bill types to the column.

03 Lock it down

Because categories tend to shift the size of your table, now is a good time to lock elements of your document to avoid them being moved when you add categories. Select all elements apart from the table itself and click **Lock** from the **Arrange** menu.

BILL	PROVIDER	Frequency	TYPE	COST
Petrol	Fuel Org.	Weekly	Travel	£50
Eating Out	Misc.	Weekly	Personal	£100
Food	Supermarket	Weekly	Home	£500
Savings	Piggy Bank	Monthly	Finance	£100
Electricity	Sparks Ltd	Monthly	Utility	£50
Rent	Landlord	Weekly	Home	£500
Mobile	Dialcom	Monthly	Utility	£50
Loan	DCH Ltd	Weekly	Finance	£100
Golf Club	Bay Links	Weekly	Personal	£50
TV	Arview	Monthly	Utility	£50
Gym	Slimline	Weekly	Personal	£18.50
Phone	Dialcom	Monthly	Utility	£20

BILL	PROVIDER	Frequency	TYPE	COST
Petrol	Fuel Org.	Weekly	Travel	£50
Eating Out	Misc.	Weekly	Personal	£100
Food	Supermarket	Weekly	Home	£500
Savings	Piggy Bank	Monthly	Finance	£100
Electricity	Sparks Ltd	Monthly	Utility	£50
Rent	Landlord	Weekly	Home	£500
Mobile	Dialcom	Monthly	Utility	£50
Loan	DCH Ltd	Weekly	Finance	£100
Golf Club	Bay Links	Weekly	Personal	£50
TV	Arview	Monthly	Utility	£50
Gym	Slimline	Weekly	Personal	£18.50
Phone	Dialcom	Monthly	Utility	£20

BILL	PROVIDER	Frequency	TYPE	COST
Petrol	Fuel Org.	Weekly	Travel	£50
Eating Out	Misc.	Weekly	Personal	£100
Food	Supermarket	Weekly	Home	£500
Savings	Piggy Bank	Monthly	Finance	£100
Electricity	Sparks Ltd	Monthly	Utility	£50
Rent	Landlord	Weekly	Home	£500
Mobile	Dialcom	Monthly	Utility	£50
Loan	DCH Ltd	Weekly	Finance	£100
Golf Club	Bay Links	Weekly	Personal	£50
TV	Arview	Monthly	Utility	£50
Gym	Slimline	Weekly	Personal	£18.50
Phone	Dialcom	Monthly	Utility	£20

04 Organise into categories

Select your table and click the column header above your Type column. Click the disclosure triangle to the right of the header and select **Categorize by This Column**. Your table will now be reorganised into categories determined by the entries in the column.

05 Show and hide

Category titles show above each of the categories. Next to each title is a disclosure triangle that, when clicked, expands or collapses a category. Here we've collapsed the Travel and Home categories and expanded Personal, Finance and Utility.

>> QUICK TIP

Category titles and information are automatically formatted when you add them. To adjust formatting, select a category title, count or subtotal and open the **Inspector** pane and **Fonts** pane. Use the text controls to align and adjust fonts.

BILL	PROVIDER	Frequency	TYPE	COST
Petrol	Fuel Org.	Weekly	Travel	£50
Excursions	Misc.	Monthly	Personal	£100
Eating Out	Misc.	Weekly	Personal	£18.50
Golf Club	Bay Links	Weekly	Personal	£50
Gym	Slimline	Weekly	Personal	£18.50
Magazines	Past Pubs	Monthly	Personal	£150
Clothes	Misc.	Weekly	Personal	£150
Food	Supermarket	Weekly	Home	£500
Rent	Landlord	Weekly	Home	£500
Savings	Piggy Bank	Monthly	Finance	£100
Loan	DCH Ltd	Weekly	Finance	£100
Insurance	Safesave	Monthly	Finance	£20

BILL	PROVIDER	Frequency	TYPE	COST
Petrol	Fuel Org.	Weekly	Travel	£50
Excursions	Misc.	Monthly	Personal	£100
Eating Out	Misc.	Weekly	Personal	£18.50
Golf Club	Bay Links	Weekly	Personal	£50
Gym	Slimline	Weekly	Personal	£18.50
Magazines	Past Pubs	Monthly	Personal	£150
Clothes	Misc.	Weekly	Personal	£150
Food	Supermarket	Weekly	Home	£500
Rent	Landlord	Weekly	Home	£500
Savings	Piggy Bank	Monthly	Finance	£100
Loan	DCH Ltd	Weekly	Finance	£100
Insurance	Safesave	Monthly	Finance	£20

BILL	PROVIDER	Frequency	TYPE	COST
Petrol	Fuel Org.	Weekly	Travel	£50
Excursions	Misc.	Monthly	Personal	£100
Eating Out	Misc.	Weekly	Personal	£18.50
Golf Club	Bay Links	Weekly	Personal	£50
Gym	Slimline	Weekly	Personal	£18.50
Magazines	Past Pubs	Monthly	Personal	£150
Clothes	Misc.	Weekly	Personal	£150
Food	Supermarket	Weekly	Home	£500
Rent	Landlord	Weekly	Home	£500
Savings	Piggy Bank	Monthly	Finance	£100
Loan	DCH Ltd	Weekly	Finance	£100
Insurance	Safesave	Monthly	Finance	£20

06 Show subtotals

To show a subtotal of the amounts in each of your categories, click a category header in your Cost column and click the disclosure triangle that appears. Now select **Subtotal** from the menu. A subtotal for each category is now added on the category header for this column.

07 Count the entries

Click on another category header and click the disclosure triangle. Now select **Count** from the drop-down menu. *Numbers* will include a figure that shows the amount of entries within a category on your table on the category header for the column you selected.

08 Add sub-categories

To include sub-categories in your table you can select another column - here we're using the bill frequency column - and click its header. Click the disclosure triangle and select **Categorize by This Column** to add a set of sub-categories beneath your original categories. ●

Use Screens VNC to access other Macs over the internet.



Set up and use Screens for Mac

Access other computers from your Mac, over local networks or the internet

»» KEY INFO



DIFFICULTY
Intermediate



TIME NEEDED
30 minutes

WHAT YOU'LL NEED

OS X 10.7 or later, Screens VNC for Mac, internet connection, iOS device (optional)

Edovia's *Screens VNC* is a versatile and capable VNC client that lets you access other computers remotely over a local network or, if the free *Screens Connect* server software is running, across the internet. After the initial setup, when you double-click on a computer (or 'screen') stored in your local Screens Library, its desktop appears in a window on your local Mac. The computer you're trying to reach has to be switched on, and although a *Screens VNC* connection can wake a computer from Sleep Mode over a local network, this isn't possible when you're connecting over the internet.

Screens VNC offers several advantages over iCloud's Back to My

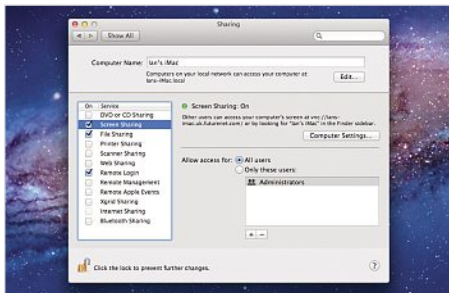
Mac service: it can connect to PCs running Linux or Windows as well as other Macs, and an iOS application (sold separately) lets you control your computers using iOS devices, over Wi-Fi or 3G. Although it's based on the VNC protocol, which doesn't support file transfer, if you have a Dropbox account you can get around this limitation by moving or copying a file into your Dropbox folder, and then picking it up on your local Mac.

"Screens VNC lets you access computers remotely over the local network or across the internet"

You can buy and install *Screens VNC* from the Mac App Store (£21, <http://bit.ly/yyYw31>). If you want to control computers using the internet as well as over a local network, you also need *Screens Connect*, a free download from the Edovia website (<http://edovia.com/screens>). By downloading this server client and signing up for a free account, all computers logged into *Screens Connect* using the same details become accessible as if they were on a local network.

The following guide shows you how to configure your Mac to run *Screens VNC*, and how to use it to access local and remote computers. Administrator privileges are required.
Ian Osborne

» HOW TO / Get the most from Screens for Mac



01 Sharing preference

First, we must configure our computer for *Screens*. Launch *System Preferences* from the Dock or using the **Apple** menu, and open the *Sharing* pane. Make sure *Screen Sharing* is on. Use *Remote Management* instead if you wish, though Edovia recommends *Screen Sharing*.



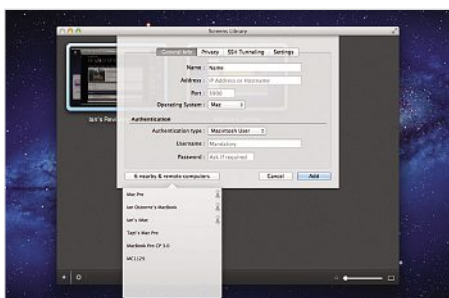
02 Screens Connect

To connect to computers over the internet, download and set up *Screens Connect*. It's free from <http://bit.ly/IgTNDW>. When installed, create a Screens ID at <http://bit.ly/IgV51x>, then log in using *Screens Connect* in *System Preferences* or *Screens'* preferences.



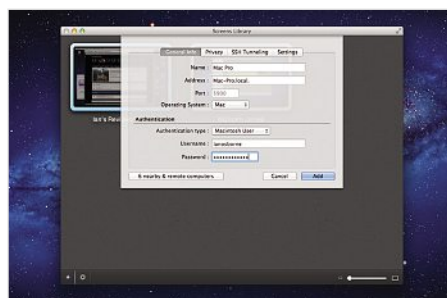
03 Configure firewall

If you're using OS X's built-in firewall, launch *System Preferences* and open *Security & Privacy*. Select the *Firewall* tab, and if the firewall's running, press *Advanced*. Make sure *Screen Sharing* and *Remote Login* (if enabled) are set to allow incoming connections.



04 Find new Screens

Launch *Screens VNC*. To add a new computer, press the '+' button in the bottom-left corner of the *Screens Library* window. Press *nearby* and *remote computers* to see what's on the local network or on the internet running the same *Screens Connect* account.



05 Add new Screens

Choose a computer from the list. Most settings are added automatically, but you must enter the username of the account you wish to connect to. If you add the password, launching the newly added screen logs you straight in. If you don't, you're asked for it on connection.



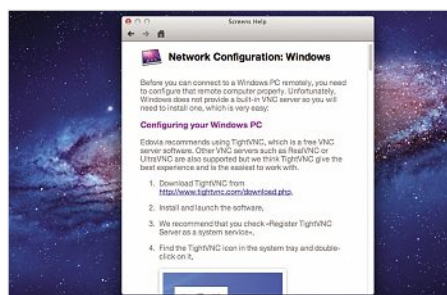
» QUICK TIP

There's a *Screens* app available for iOS 5 or later. With it, you can connect to Macs, Windows and Linux computers over Wi-Fi or 3G, and even add new machines to your Screens library, which syncs through iCloud.



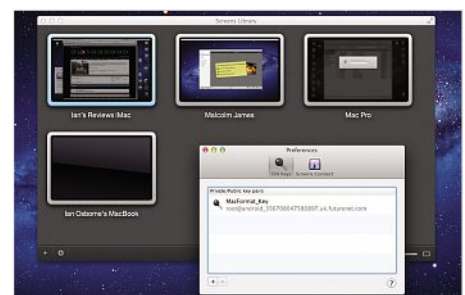
06 iCloud syncing

If you have an iCloud account, your *Screens* library automatically syncs across all your Macs, and also iOS devices running *Screens* for iOS. Edited settings are updated, though passwords and the screenshots used for your *Screens* buttons aren't shared.



07 Windows & Linux

You can also use *Screens VNC* to connect to Windows and Linux computers. A version of the *Screens Connect* server is available for Windows (see <http://bit.ly/IgTNDW>). Under *Screens'* Help menu, select *Screens Help* for more on configuring Windows and Linux PCs.



08 SSH Tunnelling

The new *Screens VNC 2.0* supports SSH Tunnelling for added security. Full instructions for creating keys in *Terminal* and adding them to your Screens library are given in the Help. (SSH Tunnelling makes your connections more secure, but it can also slow them down.) ●

Track things you 'like' or 'favourite' with Favs.



Track online favourites

Use Favs to manage and track Facebook Likes, Twitter favourites, and more

»» KEY INFO



DIFFICULTY
Beginner



TIME NEEDED
10 minutes

WHAT YOU'LL NEED

Favs 1.0.3+, OS X 10.7+, an account with one or more compatible social networks, an internet connection

We are increasingly encouraged by social networks to flag things we find online that we like. The Facebook 'Like' button is now almost ubiquitous, popping up on myriad websites, but you'll also find similar functionality in Twitter, YouTube, Flickr, and many other networks.

The majority of such interactions are of the 'that's nice' variety, akin to real-world scenarios where you give someone a passing comment or compliment about something, never to think of it again. However, flagged items can also be used as bookmarks, enabling you to build up a curated list of things you enjoyed discovering.

The problem with most social networks is that accessing previously

marked favourites isn't nearly as simple as it should be. Social networks by their very nature have content that is fleeting and transient. Searches are often unwieldy or plain absent, making it nigh-on impossible to unearth things you'd essentially bookmarked only a short while ago. Naturally, this can be hugely frustrating. *Favs* solves the problem by enabling you to bring all of your favourites into a single app. This not

"Flagged items can be used as bookmarks, enabling you to build up a curated list of things you discovered"

only gives you a much easier means of finding old Facebook Likes and favourite tweets, but it also means you have a local copy of your favourites, accessible without visiting the original networks.

Favs is reviewed on page 92 and is available for £6.99 from the Mac App Store. A free trial version can also be downloaded from <http://favsapp.com>. Note that the trial limits access to only the most recent favourites in each of your defined accounts, but it should nonetheless give you a flavour of what the app is like. You can use either version to work through our tutorial, which primarily details how to use *Favs* with Facebook and Twitter.

Craig Grannell

» HOW TO / Add accounts and manage favourites in Fav



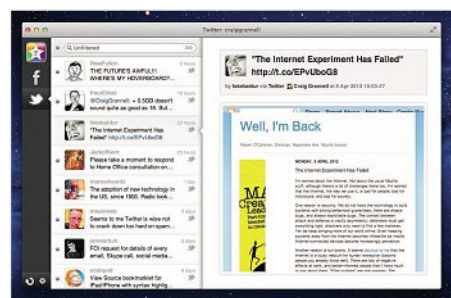
01 Connect with Facebook

Open Fav. You'll see the New Source pane with a list of services. Click **Facebook** and the pane will change to a Facebook login. Enter your email address and password, check **Keep me logged in to Favs**, and click **Log in**. Your Facebook Likes will quickly download.



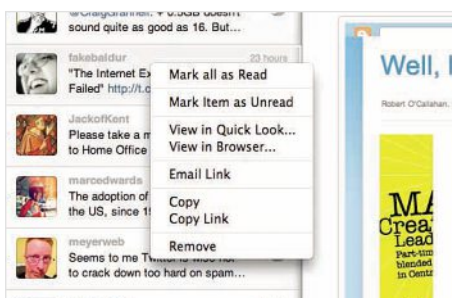
02 Add another service

To add a second service, click the cog icon at the bottom-left of the window and select **New Source**. You'll see the pane from the previous step. This time, select **Twitter**, add your username, then click **Add Source**. (You may also also need to add your password.)



03 Preview some content

Select one of your favourites from the list and it will load into the preview pane on the right. What you see will vary: some services simply show the original version of the favourite; others provide web page previews of any content the favourite links to.



04 Access item options

⌘ or right-click on any favourite and you can perform actions on it, including sending the item to Quick Look, your default web browser, email or the clipboard. Also, note that the **Remove** option only removes the favourite from Fav, not the original service.



05 Filter favourites

At the top of each list of favourites is a search field and a number denoting how many items are in the list. Type within the field to filter the list, for example by a Twitter username or subject. The list will update rapidly, unearthing long-lost favourites.



» QUICK TIP

We mostly use Fav for providing easy access to our own favourites. However, with the more public-facing networks (such as Dribbble, Flickr and Twitter), it's also possible to use Fav as a means to follow the favourites of people you like.



06 View all favourites

If you're more interested in tracking all your favourites rather than those tied to a specific service, click the **Favs** icon at the top of the services list. This will aggregate all of your favourites into a single list, regardless of where they originated.



07 Make Favs slimline

To keep Fav within view at all times, but have it take up less space, go to **View > Compact Layout** (⌘+I). This collapses the preview pane. You can still preview an item using **Quick View** - press space as normal, or use **Quick View** from the menu in step 4.



08 View popular subjects

If you fancy a quick overview of the most popular subjects found in your favourites, go to **Window > Tags** (or use ⌘+⌘+2). This brings up a spinning tags ball that can be dragged and clicked. Selecting a tag loads relevant favourites in the main Fav window. ●

Switch to iCloud

MobileMe is about to end. Isn't it high time you transferred your files to iCloud?



>> QUICK TIP

To use iCloud on your Mac you need OS X Lion 10.7.2 and iCloud. You also need iOS 5 on your iOS device. Update it over Wi-Fi or via iTunes and upgrade your OS via Software Update.

They think it's all over... If you're a MobileMe user, your account will shortly come to an end.

Any iWeb sites hosted by it, photo galleries attached to it and iDisk files stored on it will be deleted. On 30 June 2012, MobileMe will officially cease to exist. Of course, this isn't an indiscriminate cull of Apple's online service – far from it. It's simply to make way for iCloud, Apple's new, free service that's designed to replace MobileMe and is currently available to anyone, not just paying customers as before.

iCloud offers many of the features of MobileMe such as Mail, Contacts and Calendar syncing and adds new features such as 'iTunes in the Cloud' and Photo Stream. There are,

however, a number of features that fall by the wayside when the transition takes place, most notably your website and photo publishing as well as your online storage space.

iCloud isn't the online hard disk that MobileMe was. In fact, it's not designed to be accessed in a traditional sense at all. It's a service that is meant to be almost invisible to the everyday user. They will only know of its existence when apps on

"iCloud offers many of the features of MobileMe, such as Mail, Contacts and Calendar syncing"

their iPad and iPhone stay in sync or they want to download a previous iTunes purchase that isn't currently on their device. The only other time you'll be aware of iCloud is when you set it up, and that's where you need to determine the camp you are in: whether you're an upgrader from MobileMe, a brand new user or an upgrader willing to start afresh.

Prepare for the switch

If you're a current MobileMe subscriber, your account will work as expected until the end of June, at which time you will be required to make the switch to iCloud. The transition itself is pretty easy and much of the hard work is done for you. Services you currently sync like

iCloud is Apple's answer to the soon-to-be-killed MobileMe set of web services.



Mail, Contacts, Calendars and Bookmarks should hardly be affected, you just need to set your new @me.com account name (or use your current MobileMe address) and the rest should be fairly straightforward when you visit www.me.com/move. Your only other consideration should be the services that don't move across to iCloud. If you have files stored on your MobileMe iDisk, *iWeb* sites and photo galleries hosted by MobileMe or all of the above, you need to download your content to make sure it isn't deleted. In the case of *iWeb* sites, you will also need to re-home your website before MobileMe ends. Fortunately, none of these tasks are particularly taxing.

MobileMe galleries

MobileMe galleries should be the easiest to deal with. If you've set these up via *iPhoto*, the photos included in the galleries should still be in your *iPhoto* library. If they're not, you'll need to download them and reimport them into *iPhoto*. Simply log in to your MobileMe Gallery on the web by visiting <http://me.com/gallery> and enter your email address and password. Select the album or movie you want to download and click the **Adjust Settings** icon at the top of the page. On the window that appears you can set the album or movie to offer the option to download. Now, when you visit the album or movie online you can download the photos or movies to your Mac. If you follow this process for all of your albums, you can be sure

» HOW TO / Replace lost MobileMe Features

There are a number of online third-party alternatives you can use to replace MobileMe features.

iWeb publishing

- Use a free or paid hosting package with FTP upload like zymic.com
- Use free blogging tools like Blogger or Wordpress.com.

MobileMe Gallery

- Upload images from *iPhoto* to Flickr or Facebook.

iDisk Storage

- Use a free account from Dropbox.com, Box.net or Amazon Cloud Drive.
- Share only *iWork* documents between devices using 'Documents in the Cloud'.



Zymic.com offers free hosting for iWeb sites.

"When you're happy that your MobileMe files that won't be available on iCloud are safe, it's time to switch"

that none will go missing when MobileMe ends.

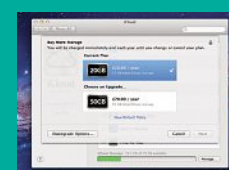
Protecting your iDisk files from MobileMe's demise is easy. Make sure you are signed in to MobileMe on your Mac (check this in *System Preferences*) and click the iDisk icon in the sidebar of any *Finder* window. All of the files and folders on your iDisk will be shown and it's up to you to select those you want to keep, or select the whole lot and drag them to a location on your Mac for safekeeping. Alternatively, you can access your iDisk by logging in to MobileMe at www.me.com and downloading data directly from the web interface.

If your *iWeb* site is currently live, you should have a copy of it in *iWeb* on your Mac so you don't need to download it from the web. In order to continue to publish your site, however, you will have to use a new hosting service that accepts upload via FTP, which we'll explore in more detail later. If you don't have access to your site in *iWeb* but want to download the files from MobileMe, you can access them by visiting the Web > Sites folder on your iDisk via the *Finder* or the MobileMe web interface. Download the index.html file as well as any folders with the same name as your *iWeb* site to your Mac to keep them safe.

When you are happy that your MobileMe files that won't be available on iCloud are safe, it's time to make the switch. You will need to make sure the Mac you are using for iCloud is running OS X 10.7 Lion and iOS devices you intend to use with iCloud are running iOS 5 or later. Also decide whether you want your iCloud account to also become your Apple ID. If you currently use one email address for iTunes Store purchases and another for MobileMe, it's best to use just one when using iCloud.

To make things even more convenient, use your iCloud email address for *iTunes* purchases which, if you're transitioning to iCloud from MobileMe, will stay the same. When you're ready, head over to www.me.com/move and sign in with your MobileMe email and password. From here you will be guided through the steps to turn your MobileMe account into an iCloud account.

If you want to forget about MobileMe altogether or don't have a MobileMe account, iCloud setup is even simpler. Simply upgrade



» QUICK TIP

iCloud doesn't offer file storage like MobileMe's iDisk but if your email, documents and backups run over the 5GB limit you can pay for more storage using your device.



iPhoto allows you to upload photos to Facebook and Flickr accounts.



>> QUICK TIP

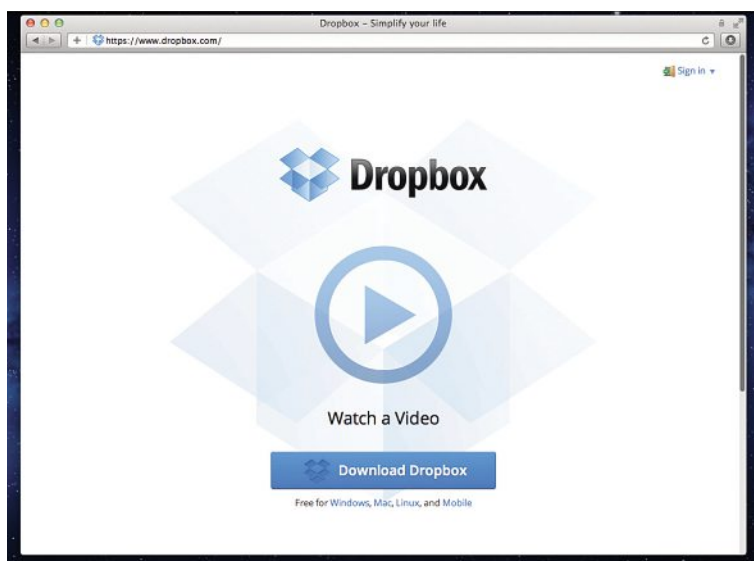
Log in to your iCloud account from any computer to access Mail, Contacts, Calendar and Find My iPhone by heading to www.icloud.com and entering your details.

your Mac to OS X Lion 10.7.2 or later and update your iOS devices to iOS 5 or later. Then use *System Preferences* on your Mac or Preferences on your iOS device to locate the iCloud setting where there is an option to 'Create a Free Apple ID'. Follow the steps to create a new iCloud account here and then login. Once you're done you can use your new iCloud account and password to sign in on your other devices so that they sync your data and iTunes downloads.

iCloud pros and cons

So, aside from losing a bunch of features, what do you get out of switching from MobileMe to iCloud? Well first, there's the fact that you don't have to pay an annual fee anymore. That's got to be good. You still have the option to sync Mail, Contacts, Calendars and Bookmarks between your devices as well as use Find My iPhone and Back to My Mac, but there are additional tools included in iCloud. 'iTunes in the Cloud' allows you to access any or all of your previous *iTunes* purchases onto any of your iCloud devices at no cost, while new purchases are pushed to all your devices.

Photo Stream syncs photos taken on any of your iOS devices with all of your other devices, 'Documents in the Cloud' lets you share *iWork* documents between your devices and you can even backup and restore your iPhone, iPod touch or iPad using iCloud. There's no fiddly setup required to access these new features either. Once you're running iCloud on your devices you can turn features on and off as simply as flicking a switch, by heading to *System Preferences* on your Mac, or tapping on the



Dropbox offers more features than iDisk and at no cost, though you can buy more space.

"Once you're running iCloud on your devices you can turn features on and off as simply as flicking a switch"

Preferences app on an iOS device and selecting iCloud.

So you've set up iCloud and all is working perfectly but you can't help but think about the features you've lost. You can't publish your *iWeb* site, your photos are no longer available from your Gallery and you can't store and share files online with iCloud. Fear not, you can get these features back at no cost.

Finding alternatives

In order to continue publishing your *iWeb* site you simply need to sign up to a new hosting account. Paying for hosting is a good option as it will

allow you to customise the package and set the amount of bandwidth you are allowed but, if you want to try out a free option, there are plenty of choices available online. The most important thing to ensure is that your chosen host offers site uploads via FTP as this is the easiest way to update your site via *iWeb*. One service that offers free hosting with FTP upload is Zymic (www.zymic.com). Although you don't get to choose your domain's extension (you must choose from a selection of options such as .zxq.net) you can quickly set up an account and send your *iWeb* site to it. In order to set where to upload your site you need to click the Site button in *iWeb*'s left-hand pane and select FTP Server in the "Publish to:" section. You can then enter the URL and login details for your hosting account in order to upload in the same way you used to upload to MobileMe. If, however, you're prepared to move on from MobileMe, there are a number of free, online blogging tools that may suit you, such as Google's Blogger (www.blogger.com) and Wordpress.com.

The best alternative to iDisk has to be Dropbox, which provides cloud-based file storage and also syncs files between your computers and devices. If anything, it's better than iDisk and it's free. Set up an account at www.dropbox.com and download the Dropbox software and you instantly have 2GB of online storage to play with. Folders are added to each Mac you install Dropbox on and, not only

>> QUICK LOOK / MobileMe vs iCloud Features

MobileMe

Mail
Contacts
Calendar
Bookmarks
Find My iPhone
Back to My Mac
iWeb Publishing
Gallery
iDisk

iCloud

Mail
Contacts
Calendar
Bookmarks
Find My iPhone
Back to My Mac
iTunes in the Cloud
Documents in the Cloud
Automatic iTunes Downloads
Backup and restore



You lose some features switching to iCloud from MobileMe, but gain a bunch more too.

>> HOW TO / Download MobileMe files and photos before they're deleted



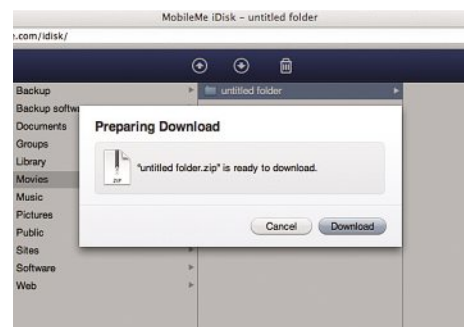
01 Login to MobileMe

Click the **Apple** menu and select **System Preferences** from the menu. On the **System Preferences** screen, click **MobileMe**. Login to your account under the **Sign In** section if it isn't already signed in.



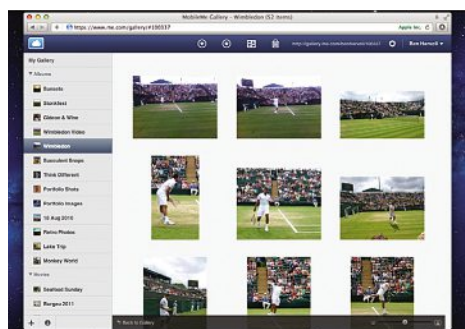
02 Access your iDisk

Click the **iDisk** tab to view the size of the files stored on your iDisk. Now, in a new **Finder** window, click **iDisk** if it appears in the left-hand column. Browse the files listed and drag and drop those you want to keep to your Mac.



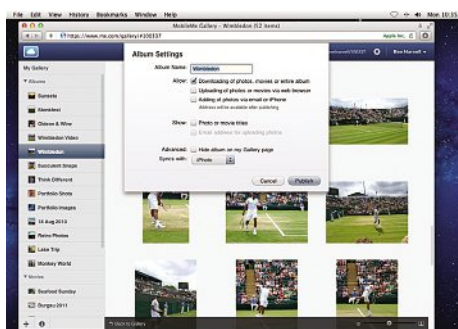
03 Login to MobileMe

If you can't access your iDisk on your Mac, head to **www.me.com** and sign in to your MobileMe account. Click the **Switch Apps** button at the top-left of the screen and then click **iDisk**. Select the files to save and click **Download**.



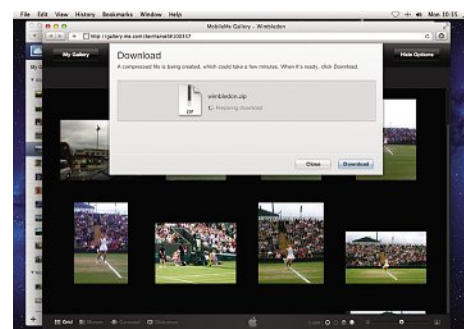
04 Access MobileMe galleries

Access your MobileMe Gallery at **www.me.com/gallery** and sign in with your username and password details. Click the name of a photo album or shared movie you want to download in the **My Gallery** sidebar on the left of the screen.



05 Allow downloads

Click **Adjust Settings** at the top and check the **Downloading of photos, movies or entire album**. Click **Allow movies to be downloaded** for single movies. Now click **Publish** to close the settings window.



06 Save your photos

Click the link to your gallery at the top-right of the page. The top of the page will include a button which, when clicked, downloads the movie or gallery. Galleries download as a ZIP; movies in the size you specify. ●

will any files you add to these folders be stored online, but they'll also sync between your computers. This means that if you make a change to a file on one Mac it will update on the other. Dropbox also enables you to share files with others – just right-click on one and a shareable link is generated, similar to the way iDisk allowed you to share links to file downloads. If you need more storage, you can upgrade to a paid Dropbox account that costs less than ten pounds per month for 50GB of storage.

Sharing services

There are plenty of sharing services that allow you to display your photos in a gallery for others to view. The

most obvious choice is Flickr, which allows for upload from *iPhoto*, comments to be made on your photos and also the option for others to download your photos. It's free to sign up to at **www.flickr.com** and you can upload up to 300Mb of photos and two videos per month. If you need more space you can upgrade to a Pro account that costs as little as two pounds per month. Alternatively, if

“There are plenty of sharing services that allow you to display your photos in a gallery for others to view”

you have a Facebook account, you can upload *iPhoto* images to it and share them with your friends that way.

Of course, as a MobileMe user you can pick one final option and opt not to use iCloud at all. You will need to create a new email account, tell all your contacts you have changed address, find a service to sync your bookmarks, contacts and calendars (Google could help you there) and forget altogether about syncing and accessing your *iTunes* purchases through the cloud. If that sounds appealing, by all means go ahead, but it does highlight just how beneficial the move to iCloud will be. We were certainly happy to make the switch!

Ben Harvell



>> QUICK TIP

If you have purchased a MobileMe account but haven't yet activated it you are entitled to a refund from Apple if you apply before 30 June 30. Visit <http://bit.ly/oTUuvv>.

Define and manage OS X accounts for more control.



Manage user accounts

Set up accounts for individuals using a single Mac, and limit children's access

»» KEY INFO



DIFFICULTY
Intermediate



TIME NEEDED
30 minutes

WHAT YOU'LL NEED

OS X Lion (most tips will also work on previous versions of OS X)

On iOS, Apple's driving computing towards a very personal model, intending everyone to own and manage their own device. That's fine for relatively wealthy households that can buy loads of kit, but a lack of user accounts on iPads in particular is frustrating. Fortunately, OS X has yet to see such limitations, and you can set up user accounts with various levels of restrictions. This means whoever's most tech-savvy in your household can be tasked with looking after the entire Mac (including other accounts and system settings) as an administrator. Other account types are more limited.

The 'standard' account cannot administer other accounts, but its

owner can install software and change settings related to the account. (It's often recommended that even a Mac's 'owner' use a standard account, leaving an administrator account purely for installing software for users on a global basis, because this lessens the likelihood of system-wide problems occurring.)

For children, you can go further and define an account with

"Whoever's most tech savvy in your home can be tasked with looking after the Mac as an administrator"

restrictions such as limiting Mac use and banning access to certain apps. Other account types include 'sharing only' and 'group'; a user of the former type only has remote access for file-sharing - they cannot use the login window; a 'group' account can consist of several accounts and be used for defining access to shared files.

The most common account types are administrator, standard and those with parental controls, and so they are what we concentrate on in the walkthrough. Before making changes, you'll have to open the Users & Groups pane in System Preferences (in the System section), click the padlock and then enter an administrator's password.

Craig Grannell

>> HOW TO / Manage and create user accounts



01 Manage your details

Select your account. In the Password tab, you can amend the account's password, but also other details, including the account's name and the picture used on the login screen – click it and select another, or select **Edit Picture** and take a photo if your Mac has a camera.

02 Define login items

Click the Login Items tab. Here, you can define apps and services that launch when the account is activated. Select and click '-' to remove one, or use '+' to add more. Too many items in this list can slow down a Mac's startup time, so be mindful of that if you restart a lot.

03 Set login options

Signed in as an admin, click Login Options in the sidebar. You can define an automatic account to log-in to; if you don't want this, set **Automatic login** to Off, and the login screen will be displayed at boot. Most options in this pane define what's displayed at login.



04 Add a new account

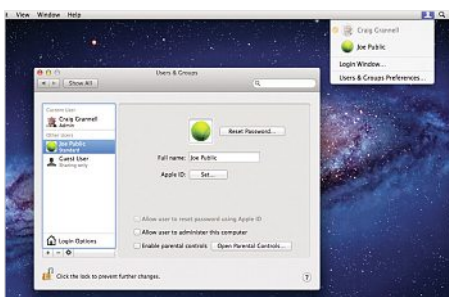
Still as an admin, click the '+' below Login Options to create a new account. Define its level from the pop-up menu. Name the account, add a password and then include a hint to help remember the password in case it's forgotten. Click **Create User**.

05 Define login options

If automatic login is active, you'll be asked whether you want to keep it on or disable it. If the Mac is regularly accessed by different people, we recommend disabling automatic login. Note that you can always change this setting later under Login Options.

>> QUICK TIP

In **Users & Groups**, there is a **Guest User** option. By default, this is disabled, but check **Allow guests to log in to this computer** and a guest account is activated. Logging in doesn't require a password, and all data is deleted on logging out.



06 Switch between accounts

Although you can force people to return to the login screen to access a different account, you can also turn on fast user switching in Login Options. This places an icon or name in the menu bar, which can be used to switch between accounts. (Passwords are still required).

07 Enable parental controls

Parental controls can be activated by checking **Enable parental controls** in an account's settings in User & Groups, or by the button in the Parental Controls pane. Within **Apps**, you can limit a user to specific apps, simplify **Finder** and freeze the Dock.

08 Define further limits

The other tabs set further limitations: **Web** for sites the account can access; **People** for defining a contacts list for **Mail** and messaging; **Time Limits** to set hours and days the account can be used; and **Other** for access to **Dictionary** profanity, printers, and the account's password. ●

Words: Matthew Bolton

Apple basics

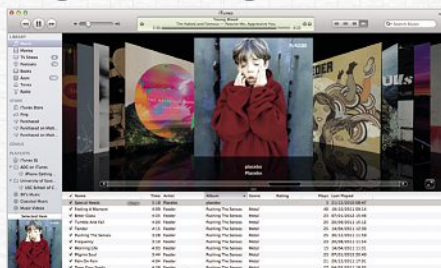
10 top tips for getting more from iTunes



Find missing artwork

Fill in the blanks in your collection

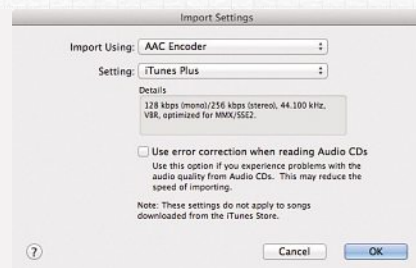
01 If you import CDs into *iTunes*, or add music that you already had stored as digital files, there won't always be album artwork available straight away. In such cases you'll end up with blank parts of your library when you view it as a grid, or in Cover Flow mode. To fill in the gaps, go to **Advanced > Get Album Artwork**. This will search through your library, updating any songs or albums that it recognises. It's not faultless, but you can also try apps such as *CoverScout* (<http://bit.ly/2LSu>) to fill any further blanks.



Browse your way

Change the view mode to suit

02 There are several different viewing modes for your *iTunes* library, so it's worth playing around to see which one suits you best. The first option is a song list that lets you see all of your songs, with their information in columns, which you can sort any way you like. The album view arranges music by album, and shows you the album artwork. The grid view arranges your music by artist, and offers a grid of artwork instead of a list. Cover Flow is the fanciest, letting you browse your music like a CD collection.



Control CD importing

Define quality control for imports

03 CDs carry much higher quality audio than you generally get out of an MP3 or AAC file. Many people won't notice the difference, but some only want the best audio experience. You can change how *iTunes* imports audio from CDs, to give yourself higher quality files, including using Apple Lossless. Go to *iTunes*' Preferences menu and click 'Import Settings' near the bottom. Click the drop-down menu for 'Import Using' to select which encoding to use (AAC or MP3 are the most common).

Share your music library

Set your music free with iTunes' ability to share user libraries

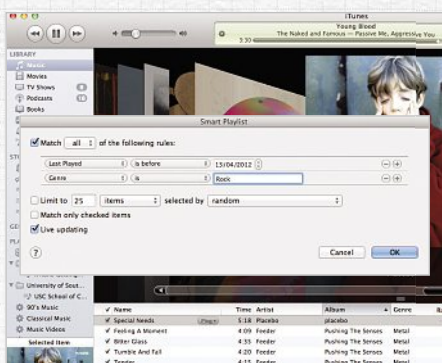
04 If you have more than one machine in your house running *iTunes*, or if you have multiple accounts on one Mac, you can actually share your libraries with each other. This enables you to listen to music you wouldn't normally have available to you without adding it permanently to your own library. You can turn on this option by going to *iTunes*' preferences, then selecting the Sharing tab. Click the checkbox at the top to enable sharing – note that you can password protect access. You can also opt to share only selected playlists not just of music, but also any other supported media types. You can access another user's library in the *iTunes*' sidebar – it will appear next to your playlists under the appropriate name.



Control playback

Refine the way music's played

05 There are a few options you can tweak to change the way *iTunes* plays songs. Go to the Preferences menu, then the Playback tab. Here, you can choose to have songs crossfade into each other (which could be good if you have your music on shuffle), you can use the built-in Sound Enhancer (or turn it off) and use Sound Check to make sure that your songs all play at roughly the same volume. You can also enable closed captioning for videos by default here, and select to play in HD automatically.



Create playlists

Select what music should play

06 If you want to be able to listen to your music in a way that goes beyond just having it sorted by artist or album – as the main library does – or shuffling through it all, then playlists are the ideal solution. You can add any songs you want to a playlist, mixing genres, artists and anything you like! To create a new playlist, click the plus in the far bottom-left corner. Type to name it something suitable, then go back to your music library. To add tracks to the playlist, simply drag them to it in the *iTunes* sidebar. You can also create so-called ‘smart playlists’, which allow you to set up certain criteria for songs to be added automatically, such as anything you haven’t listened to in the last 30 days, for example. You can sync your playlists with your iOS devices, too, so you’re not restricted to listening to them on your Mac.



Use iTunes DJ

Let friends decide what plays

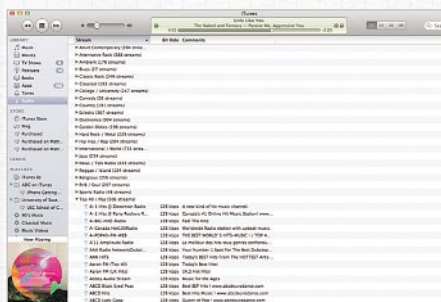
07 iTunes DJ is a feature of *iTunes* that lets you create a collaborative playlist where people can request songs from your library and add them to a playing queue. This can be done directly on the Mac, or you can enable people to browse the iTunes DJ list and your library from their iOS devices, adding songs from anywhere on your network. You can tweak the settings to tell it how many queued songs to display, and you can let people vote on the order from their devices. A great party feature, this one!



Have multiple libraries

Separate your collections by creating individual iTunes libraries

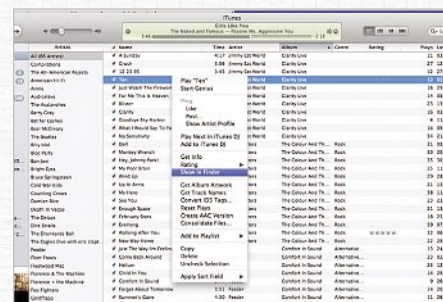
10 If you hold $\square$ when you click to open *iTunes*, you’ll bring up a menu where you can choose which *iTunes* library to open, or you can opt to create a new one. Why would you want to do this exactly? Well, you might want to have a separate library for your kids, for instance, so that their songs don’t pop up when you’re listening to yours on shuffle. Or you might want to use more than one iOS device on the same account. The songs aren’t just separated in the *iTunes* interface – when you create a new library and name it something new, that selection is also stored separately to your original library in *Finder*.



Enjoy internet radio

Play a raft of cool radio streams

08 With so much focus on your own music library and the iTunes Store for finding more music, it’s easy to forget that iTunes is also a very capable internet radio player. Click Radio in the sidebar (under Tones) to see the different categories of station. Unfortunately, you can’t search for a specific station easily, but there’s a huge range of music in the different genres, and there are several BBC stations on there. Additionally, any streams with the PLS suffix you find on the web should automatically open and play in *iTunes*.



Show files in Finder

View the real file, not the listing

09 *iTunes* is just a database of your music and movies, meaning that it doesn’t actually contain the music files it plays, but rather just sorts them into an easy-to-browse interface. The actual files are on your hard drive, mostly likely in the Music folder. If you want to find any of the files themselves, you can simply right-click on any song and select ‘Show in Finder’. This will bring up a new *Finder* window, with the song you selected in *iTunes* already highlighted. This is useful if you want to copy tracks manually.

Words: Craig Grannell Photography: Philip Sowels

Why you need an Apple TV

Apple calls it a hobby, but we reckon the Apple TV has evolved into an essential piece of kit for making the most of your media

When faced with the prospect of buying an Apple TV, a question many people ask is: "Why would I want one?" And, to be fair, Apple's black hockey puck does initially appear quite limited and restricted – a seemingly impenetrable box that doesn't even enable you to load apps, nor offer the freedom of watching whatever you want, whenever you want.

Critics often use it to bash Apple's 'closed ecosystem', arguing that the Apple TV is little more than a device designed to funnel more of your money to the iTunes Store and Apple's ever-growing cash mountain. Even Apple itself isn't particularly bullish about its tiny device, referring to it as a 'hobby', and usually only gives it the briefest of mentions during keynotes and earnings calls, before banging on about the iPad.

But there's clearly something to the Apple TV, otherwise Apple – notorious for its razor-sharp sense of focus – would have canned it a long time ago. We reckon its detractors often miss the point about what the device is for, and, importantly, what it has the potential to be. For us, the Apple TV is an essential part of our Apple ecosystem. Even out of the box, it can impress in key areas, but add an iOS device to the mix and you have the potential to revolutionise your viewing habits. Bung in a Mac as well and you have the kind of media centre TV addicts would have killed for only a few short years ago.

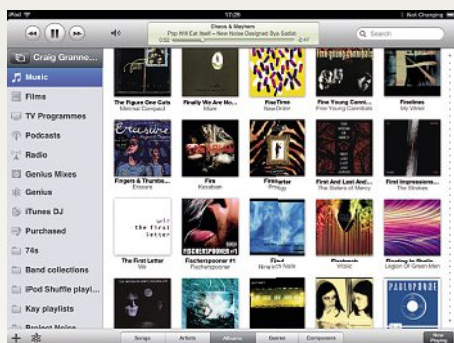
This feature explains why we're hooked on Apple's tiny black box, and why its future is brighter than ever. By the end you won't so much be asking yourself why would you want one, but instead: why wouldn't you? »



An Apple TV can complement a home entertainment system in more ways than one.



APPLE TV



Using the Apple TV interface to stream music content from your Mac can be painful. Instead, use the Remote iOS app.

The Apple TV, which sets you back £99 in the UK, is a simple unit and it's very easy to set up. It connects to a TV via a single HDMI lead, optionally to an amp via optical audio, and to your network via Wi-Fi. The latest interface revision's home screen is vaguely iOS-like, providing straightforward access to a number of sections and content sources.

Box of tricks

First up, you get Movies, which is essentially a rental service. Not every film you'd find in a brick-and-mortar shiny-disc rental shop finds its way to the iTunes Store (which is where the Apple TV draws its content from), but the selection is improving all the time. Pricing isn't too bad either, at £3.49 per film. Although you can perhaps find better deals if you venture into your local town, the Apple TV wins out through immediacy: confirm a rental and it starts streaming. Assuming you have a reasonable broadband connection, even HD movies should be ready to watch within a few minutes at most. If something crops up and you no longer have time to sit in front of your TV, you can delay starting the film for up to 30 days, but once you press play you've got 48 hours (24 in the USA) before the rental disappears. Note that you can also watch a film

as many times as you wish during the limited window – handy if you fall asleep half-way through while the rest of your family remains glued to the screen.

The next option is TV Shows. Although Apple briefly flirted with TV show rentals in the USA, all shows are now purchase-based. You can buy shows by the episode or series, and cost varies depending on the network, the

"It connects to a TV via a single HDMI lead, optionally an amp via optical audio, and to a network via Wi-Fi"

show itself and whether or not you're downloading HD. Expect to pay up to £2.49 per HD episode, although buying an entire season or series usually drops the per-episode price average, and the iTunes Store also offers regular sales on older shows. If you're not all that fussed regarding picture quality, switch Video Resolution to SD in the iTunes Store

section of Settings to save yourself a few quid.

Note that because the Apple TV is a device with limited storage (its guts essentially reveal a headless 8GB iPod touch), you don't store purchases on the device itself. Instead, TV shows are stored in Apple's iCloud service and streamed on demand. (This is also the case for an increasing number of movies in the USA, which can be purchased rather than just rented through the Apple TV. We assume this feature will eventually find its way to the UK.)

Beyond iTunes

The third option on the home screen is Music, which is also service-based, in that it's a link to iTunes Match. This is a £21.99 per year subscription that attempts to match the music collection stored on your Mac and then enable you to play it back through Apple devices, without having to sync myriad files between said devices.

This option works nicely if you're already using iTunes Match. If you're not, there are other ways to get your music – and, in fact, plenty of other non-iTunes Store content – on to your Apple TV. The fourth of the home



» HARDWARE HELP / Get under the bonnet of your Mac

Until now, AirPlay has been very much about iOS devices sending audio and, more recently, video to an Apple TV. But with OS X Mountain Lion, the next major revision to Apple's desktop operating system, this will change. With Apple once again being inspired by the iPad and bringing its core features to the Mac, OS X will introduce AirPlay mirroring from a Mac to an Apple TV, enabling you to easily wirelessly stream content from your Mac to a TV.

In a home context, this will be a boon. Although iOS has hundreds of thousands

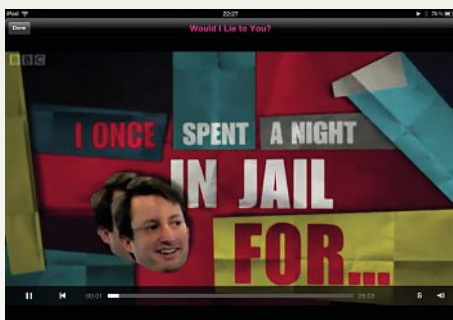
of apps, certain types of content – including a number of television networks – haven't yet been made accessible on iOS. As of OS X Mountain Lion, if the Mac can play something, you can easily get it wirelessly to your television.

Elsewhere, AirPlay support will also be beneficial: for educators it widens the scope for using an Apple TV in the classroom; and businesspeople in meetings will be able to wirelessly send content from their Macs to conference room screens.



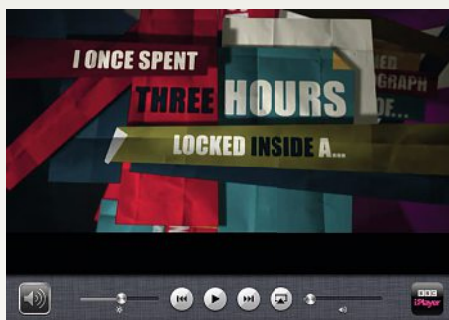
OS X Mountain Lion is set to stream a Mac's screen to an Apple TV.

» HOW TO / Use AirPlay with non-standard players



01 Launch an app

Apps like the depicted *BBC iPlayer* do not use the standard iOS playback controls, which means there's no one-touch way to access AirPlay. However, many of them nonetheless support the technology.



02 The multitasking bar

Double-click the Home button and swipe the multitasking bar right (twice on the iPhone or iPod touch) and you'll see playback controls and also an icon denoting the active app that supports background multimedia playback.



03 Activate AirPlay

Tap the AirPlay button and select Apple TV and, if the app's compatible, it'll soon send audio and video to your television. (Use the Mirroring switch if the app doesn't include built-in support.) ●

screen's options is Computers, and this enables you to connect your Apple TV to the iTunes Library of any Mac (or PC) on your network that you've set to allow Home Sharing (Advanced > Turn On Home Sharing in *iTunes*).

Once connected to a Mac, you get a menu on the Apple TV that enables you to access all relevant content that's sitting in *iTunes*: music, movies, TV shows, podcasts, iTunes U content and photos. Although this does have the downside of requiring your Mac to be awake, the benefits are clear: you're not reliant on the iTunes Store. If you've used the likes of *Handbrake* to convert videos to an iOS-compatible format, and stored the results in *iTunes*, the Computers section will enable you to access this footage. If you're not using iTunes Match, you get access to your music collection, for no cost.

The remaining items on the Apple TV home screen refer to specific online services, further expanding the content you can access via the device. Some of the options, such as YouTube and Vimeo, are free, whereas others, such as Netflix, require a subscription.

Towards the end of the list you'll also find several photo services, if you fancy turning your television into a massive, energy-guzzling photo frame.

Remote control

Whatever type of content you're trying to access, one thing will become clear before long: the remote control that Apple bundles with the Apple TV is dumbed down to the point of it being borderline useless in certain scenarios, and this is exacerbated by the nature of the Apple TV's linear-list menus. For basic tasks, the remote is okay – you can use it to play and pause and it's fine for navigating the latest movies and grabbing one to rent. But it's very easy to lose your patience when entering search terms and passwords letter-by-letter, using the tiny direction arrows and clicking the play button to confirm each character. And if you've a big music collection, scrolling down a massive list of artists or albums gets old really fast.

For such tasks, Apple offers the *Remote* app. A free download from *iTunes*, it has two primary functions. The first is turning any iOS device into a gesture-based touchscreen controller. Menus are navigated by swiping and tapping, but more importantly, whenever you find yourself confronted by a text field, the iOS keyboard pops up. Typing on an iOS device might be slower than using a



The Apple TV's small size means it's easy to add one to most home setups.



traditional keyboard, but it's certainly a lot faster to enter a password using an iPhone, iPod touch or iPad than it is to navigate around the screen with the Apple TV remote.

The *Remote* app has further gestures, too. When a video is playing, you can flick left and right to rewind and fast-forward, or drag-hold to scrub through footage; if you flick down, you'll gain access to chapter markers and can then flick left or right to skip. Similarly, when playing music you can drag to scrub or flick to access the previous or next tracks.

The other thing the *Remote* app is great for is navigating the media you have stored in *iTunes*. On the iPad in particular, *Remote* rather resembles a miniature version of Apple's desktop jukebox, and enables you to rapidly search a collection to find an album or video you'd like to listen to or watch. You don't have to scroll down a massive list of artists (which can take some time), click an album, then



Apple TV ports: power, HDMI (to connect TV), Optical Audio (for an amp) and Ethernet. The USB port is for servicing only.

APPLE TV



The revised home screen of the Apple TV has more than a hint of iOS about it, with rows of buttons across the screen.

click again to play a track; instead, you can slide your finger down the side of the iOS device's screen, tap an album's artwork, and then choose a track once it spins round on the iPad, or when the track-listing slides into view on an iPhone or iPod touch.

Although *Remote* is definitely the first app we recommend that new Apple TV owners download, it's far from the last, and that's because the App Store – in combination with the AirPlay feature – opens up a world of possibilities for the device.

App to the future

Apple's still fond of telling everyone "there's an app for that", and although most apps are designed for consuming or creating content on an iOS device, Apple's AirPlay technology can free video and audio from any one device and enable you to send it elsewhere. In such situations, your iOS device becomes a kind of super-powered remote control, used for finding what you want to watch or listen to. And the Apple TV becomes a receiver and conduit, sending the output to the television, rather than it remaining locked inside your device.

In some cases, this can fix shortcomings with the Apple TV itself. For example, although the Apple TV has a Radio option on its home screen, finding a station you want to listen to can be tedious. Instead, it makes more sense to grab a dedicated radio app, such as *TuneIn Radio*. Find a station you'd like to listen to on



The Apple TV comes with a remote - but the Remote app is superior.

"Apps provide plenty of content that you cannot access directly through the Apple TV itself"

that (which can subsequently be stored as a favourite), start playing, and then send the audio stream to your television by tapping the AirPlay button and selecting your Apple TV as the destination.

Elsewhere, apps provide plenty of content that you cannot access directly through the Apple TV itself. Some of these mirror traditional television in some way: for example, the BBC and Channel 4 provide AirPlay-

compatible catch-up services in the form of *BBC iPlayer* and *4oD Catch Up*, respectively. (It's worth noting that both of these apps use non-standard players and so lack an on-screen AirPlay button – see the 'Use AirPlay with non-standard players' walkthrough for how to get AirPlay working with them.) The awkwardly named *Watch TV Free Live with TVCatchup* app provides access to whatever's showing right now on over 50 channels. And then there are plenty of specialist video apps, such as *TED*. So-called TEDTalks are brief and typically entertaining presentations by intelligent, articulate geniuses, mavericks and gurus. The app itself enables you to watch on your iOS device and save shows for later, but the built-in AirPlay support provides the means to get the videos to your Apple TV and so to your television and accompanying audio system.

» HARDWARE HELP / Apple TV gaming

Ever since the demise of the ill-fated Pippin, the rumour mill has claimed that Apple will release a games console. Through AirPlay, the ecosystem already exists, although it's perhaps not quite ready for prime time.

The most recent two iPad revisions and the iPhone 4S can mirror any app to an Apple TV, including games. In some cases, your TV will display the game's visuals in widescreen and the device itself will show something else. For example, in *Real Racing 2*, it displays the course map and your speed, lap time and position; in

Pinball HD, your iPad is turned into a massive flipper controller.

Currently, the main problem with AirPlay gaming is inconsistency. For every Apple TV owner who can get it working in silky smooth fashion, another complains of glitches and lag that can be disastrous from a playability standpoint. However, you can reduce problems by disabling Bluetooth, reducing load on your network, placing your router near where you're playing, and even by wiring up your Apple TV to your router using Ethernet.



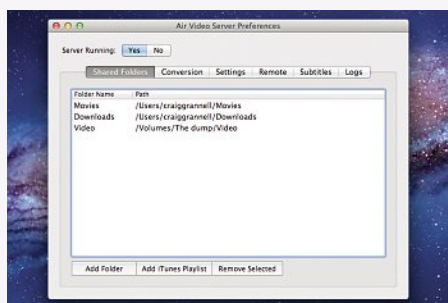
When mirrored to an Apple TV, some games use the iOS display for controllers or extra information.

>> HOW TO / Set up Air Video



01 Install the client

Download and install the *Air Video* client from <http://inmethod.com> or the iTunes Store (<http://bit.ly/9NaHFy>). Once it's launched, you'll see the icon in your menu bar. Click it and select 'Preferences' to open the app's preferences.



02 Define shared folders

In the Air Video Server Preferences, select the Shared Folders tab. Click 'Add Folder', select a folder where you have stored some videos, and click Open. It will be added to the list. Repeat with other relevant folders.



03 Use the app

When the server's running (toggle in the preferences or the menu item), you can now access your shared folders from the *Air Video* app and stream videos within, which can be sent to your Apple TV via AirPlay. ●

Some apps go further into the realm of making something staggeringly complicated surprisingly simple. *Air Video* and *streamtome* both require you to install a piece of server software on your Mac, and select some folders. When the related iOS app is installed on your iOS device, you can access the defined folders, select a video, and have it stream over Wi-Fi to your device. This can then be sent on to your Apple TV. If the format of the video isn't compatible with iOS, the server software will convert it on-the-fly. And so if you've a bunch of AVI files sitting on a hard drive, these apps provide the means to get them to your TV, without syncing, without converting, and without moving the files anywhere.

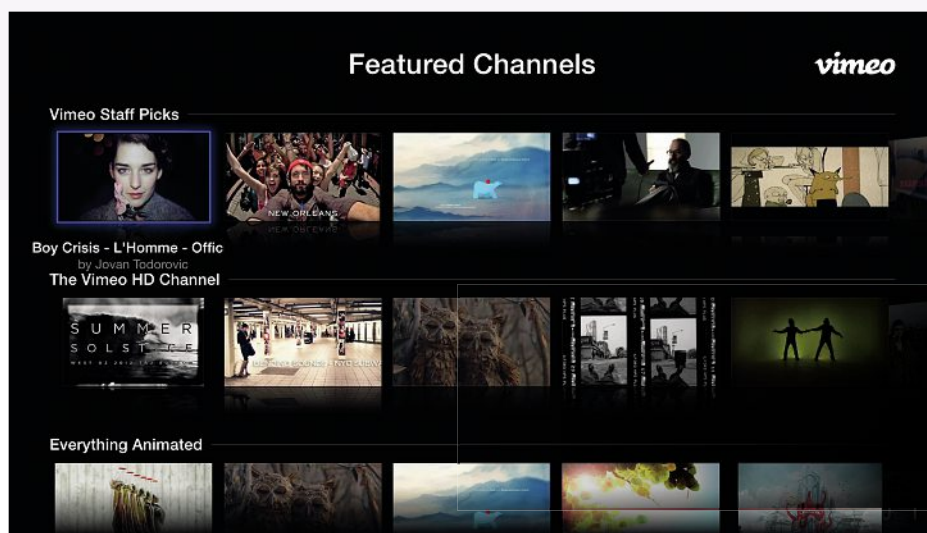
Work with it

Outside of entertainment, the Apple TV offers further scope, with many apps enabling you to send your work to the device. For example, *Keynote* presentations can be sent to a television, which might not be much use in the home, but it has clear benefits in the classroom or in business meeting rooms.

If the rumour mill is to be believed, Apple remains hard at work on an actual television, which fans of the company hope will



Stream iTunes content sat on your Mac to the Apple TV.



Even without an iOS device on hand, an Apple TV provides more than just access to content on the iTunes Store.

revolutionise television in much the same way the iPhone totally disrupted the smartphone industry. Much of the speculation originates with Walter Isaacson's biography of Steve Jobs. Within, Isaacson says Jobs wanted to make television sets "simple and elegant", like he'd done for computers, music players and phones. "It would be seamlessly synced with all of your devices and with iCloud. It will have the simplest user interface you could imagine. I finally cracked it."

There's nothing to say Apple won't introduce a television set at some point, but who's to say Apple hasn't already cracked it? The Apple TV, after all, works with any existing television with an HDMI input. It makes it easy for you to rent and buy from the iTunes Store and, as we've seen in this feature, access almost limitless content from elsewhere: TV catch-up

services, radio stations, online video repositories, and your own media collection.

Unlike any possibly forthcoming Apple television, the Apple TV also happens to be an affordable, small, simple add-on. Recently, the Apple TV was revised to support 1080p HD content (as opposed to the previous model, which only supported 720p). For those people who demand the highest possible quality picture, the upgrade would set them back £99. But an equivalent technological leap with a full television set would have rather more impact on your wallet.

So while we'll keep half an ear out for news of a magical new Apple product that can revolutionise yet another industry, we'll be keeping two eyes on our existing living room TV's screen, powered by Apple's unassuming but surprisingly powerful little black box. ●

Q&A

● HINTS & TIPS ● TROUBLESHOOTING ● EXPERT ADVICE ● ESSENTIAL INFO

>> MEET YOUR Q&A EXPERT

Whatever your Mac-related problem, from misbehaving MacBooks to withering wireless, Luis Villazon can help.



>> ASK LUIS A QUESTION

Got a problem with your Mac? Then why not send your queries to Luis at macformat.help@futurenet.com and see if he can help.

If your broadband modem doesn't have Wi-Fi built in, plug in an AirPort Express.

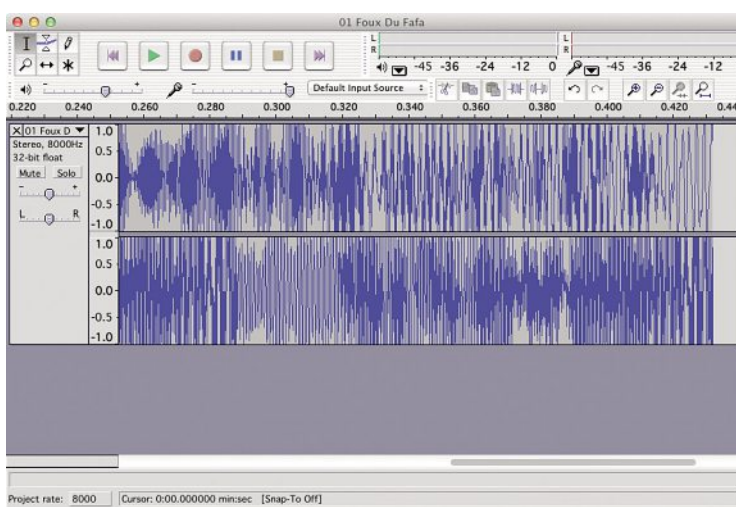
"Setting up a Wi-Fi network to connect an iPad"

Q I have a mental block when it comes to understanding networks. I am trying to set up my iPad and wondering what to type in the Network field. I spent all afternoon trying and eventually managed to register the iPad by connecting it to my iMac using the Dock connector. Is it the ISP, the broadband router or the computer system? Also, I have just read in the manual for my router that it's not wireless - it only offers USB/Ethernet connection. Can an iPad be paired in the same way that a Magic Mouse or an iMac can? Also, when I try to import footage from a Cisco Flip pocket camcorder, a

window comes up saying "iPad cannot use this device because it requires more power". Is this because of too many films on the iPad or the Flip device?

Andrew Murr

A "Requires more power" literally means more electrical power, not memory or storage capacity. You can't connect the camcorder to the iPad because the camcorder is taking more power from the USB port than the iPad can supply. You might have more luck if the camcorder is plugged into the mains electricity at the same



Like Audacity, most audio-editing programs will let you record from an external source.

time. But it may be that you'll have to import the footage to the iMac first and then sync the videos across to the iPad using iTunes.

As to your network problems, you are right to surmise that you can't connect because you don't have a Wi-Fi router. The simplest way to fix this is to plug an AirPort Express base station into the Ethernet port of your router. This will broadcast a Wi-Fi signal that both your iPad and iMac will be able to use to connect to the internet and each other.

There's really very little you need to configure - just tap the Wi-Fi icon in Settings on the iPad and choose the network name that is broadcast by the AirPort Express. You'll need to enter the Wi-Fi password supplied with the AirPort Express, but everything else should work right out of the box. On the iMac, click System Preferences > Network and it's much the same procedure after that. It is possible to forego the AirPort Express

and create an ad-hoc (also sometimes called 'peer-to-peer') wireless network on your iMac for your iPad to connect to. But unless you are comfortable with networking, I wouldn't recommend it. It's just an extra layer of complication and hassle that you don't need right now.

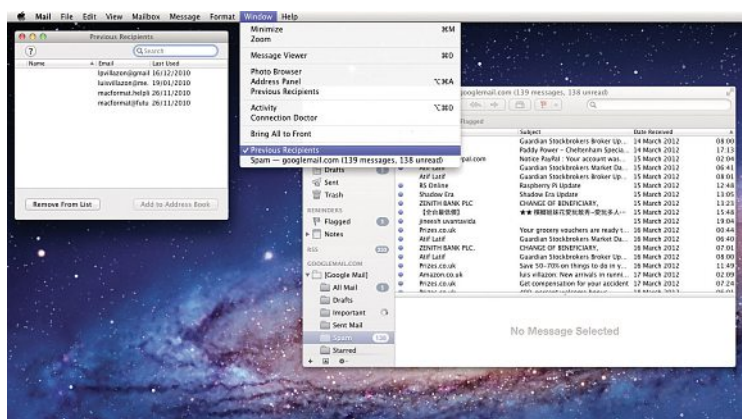
"How would I transfer cassette tapes to my iMac?"

Q Is there a Frequently Asked Questions guide for transferring cassette tapes to an iMac's hard disk? I did have some rather flaky software that ran under Snow Leopard but it doesn't run under Lion.

Steve Switzer

A The software is probably the easiest part. You can use Audacity (<http://audacity.sourceforge.net>) which is free, or you





Unless you regularly prune it, your Previous Recipients list is full of lots of old addresses.

can search the App Store for “audio recorder” to discover dozens of cheap alternatives, such as *Audio Recorder Pro*. All you really need is something that will take an audio source from the mic input and save it as an MP3 file. To get the audio signal from your cassette player to the mic input, you'll need a cable with a stereo 3.5mm jack at one end (to plug into the iMac) and either another stereo 3.5mm jack at the other end, or a pair of red and white RCA plugs, depending on what outputs you have on your analogue cassette player.

That's not the hard part either; these cables are quite easy to get hold of at Radio Shack or Maplins. The *hard* part is getting a decent audio signal out of your cassette deck in the first place. Most players are at least 15 years old now and the tapes are probably even older. Playing one will probably sound like you're putting your ear up to a bowl of Rice Krispies. At the very least, you'll need to clean the tape heads and fine-tune the head tracking with the Azimuth adjustment screw. More likely, you'll need some kind of noise reduction filter as well. There's some quite useful information at www.thegreatbear.net in this area.

“How do I delete old addresses in my email client?”

Q In *Apple Mail*, when I start to write an email address in the “To” box, I get a list of possible addresses that appear for me to choose from. By all accounts, that's fine and expected. However, within my list of possible email addresses I also have email

addresses of people I don't know, don't recognise, and haven't had any dealings with! They are not in my *Address Book* either.

Firstly, have you any idea where they have come from; secondly, where are they hiding; and thirdly, how do I remove them?

Thanks for your help.

Ian Harnett

A It's called the Previous Recipients list, and all the email addresses in it are ones that you have sent at least one email to in the past. You don't need to type the email address yourself; hitting reply to someone's email to you, or clicking an ‘unsubscribe’ link in a piece of spam will do it. So will clicking a mailto: link in a web page. Indeed, anything that results in the OS X *Mail* application sending an email will put the address of the recipient in the Previous Recipients list.

That's your answer to question 1. The technical answer to question 2 is that the list is stored on your Mac at `~/Library/Application Support/AddressBook/MailRecents-v4.abcdmr`. If you want to jump straight to question 3, you can just delete this file completely. However, there's no need to go throwing out the baby with the bathwater, because you can also click Window > Previous Recipients in Mail and you'll see the list for yourself. This way, you can search the list, edit individual names and even add some or all of the addresses to the *Address Book* proper. What I want to know is why the Previous Recipients list isn't already part of *Address Book*, as a special group, because that would be much more logical. ➤

HAMR it home

Ian Osborne



Given the spectacular rise of solid-state drives over the last few years, it may come as a surprise that demand for good old hard disc drives is also rising. In fact, it's outstripping the demand for solid-state storage, which seems to complement rather than replace traditional hard drives. Never is this truer than with hybrid drives such as Seagate's Momentus XT, which combines a hard drive with solid-state memory for fast access to regularly used files and sizable yet cost-effective storage for your media.

Indeed, capacity is the solid-state drive's main stumbling block. Although SSDs of 512GB are available and the first 1TB model was released last Autumn, larger drives are prohibitively expensive. You can buy a HDD four times this size for a fraction of the price. And hard drives are about to get bigger. Much bigger.

In just a few years' time, an emerging technology called heat-assisted magnetic recording (HAMR) could bring us 3.5-inch drives of up to 6TB. Over time, 30TB to 60TB for 3.5-inch drives and 2.5-inch HDDs of 10TB to 20TB are theoretically possible, although drives of this capacity could be well over a decade away. But how does it work?

According to hard drive manufacturer Seagate, today's drives can store around 620 gigabits per square inch of platter space. As this figure increases by shrinking the amount of space needed to store each bit of information, hard drive capacity rises, but there's a limit to how small this space can be before the platters become unstable. Current Perpendicular Magnetic Recording (PMR), introduced in 2006, is expected to reach this limit in a generation or two.

HAMR promises to dramatically increase this storage density. The new technology uses a magnetic recording medium with very high coercivity, ie. it's very resistant to changes in magnetisation. This means it's perfectly stable at normal temperatures, but needs to be heated before it can be written to. By adding a laser to the read/write heads, very small and precisely defined areas of the platter can be heated before being written to. Earlier this year, Seagate became the first hard-drive maker to achieve the milestone storage density of one terabit (one trillion bits) per square inch using HAMR.

People have been predicting the end of hard drive capacity increases for years, but every time a drive technology reaches the ceiling of what it can do, the tech boffins find a way to smash straight through it with new technologies. It will be a long time before HAMR hard drives reach their true potential regarding capacity, and what they'll do regarding read/write speeds is anyone's guess, but we look forward to finding out. ●

Ian's spent all his spare hours beta-testing *Diablo III* on Blizzard's game servers - and after waiting over a decade for the action RPG, we can't blame him! Expect a full review next issue...

>> QUICK TIP

With Lion, you can enter a Google search, even if *Safari* isn't running. Just hit **⌘ + [Space]** to bring up Spotlight and type your keywords. At the bottom of the results list, you'll see "Search Web for" and "Search Wikipedia for".

"I can no longer install Flash on my iMac..."

Q I have an Intel iMac running OS X 10.5.8. Previously I had been running Adobe Flash, but for some unknown reason this is no longer possible. I can download the installer okay, and it says it is installed - but it isn't.

David Martin

A Flash is one of those annoying things that is almost part of the operating system, but not quite. I would much prefer for Flash updates to be integrated into *Software Update* instead of using Adobe's updater. But given the way Apple feels about Flash, that's never going to happen. We'll just have to grit our teeth and put up with it until Flash finally dies and is replaced by HTML5.

If your Flash installation is broken, the standard operating procedure is to run the uninstaller (Applications/Utilities/Adobe Flash Player Install Manager), then repair permissions with *Disk Utility*. Now restart your Mac and download the correct version from <http://get.adobe.com/flashplayer>. The latest version requires Snow Leopard (10.6), so make sure you click the "Different operating system or browser?" link and use the drop-down menus to choose *Flash Player 10.3*, which is what you need for your system. Then just run the downloaded installer.



Always make sure you uninstall Flash, before downgrading to an older version.

"Drag and drop won't drop when it should drop!"

Q I'm having an issue on my MacBook Pro whenever I attempt to drag and drop anything. The item sticks to the cursor and won't drop, and I have to force-quit the application involved. I searched Apple support and found it to be a common problem. Restarting doesn't help; the only solution I could find is to sleep the Mac, then wake it up. But once you restart, the problem is back. I'm an avid reader of *MacFormat* and often find solutions to issues covered in your Q&A section. It's many times more helpful than Apple support.

Peter Hermans

A This problem is caused by the display drivers in certain screen sharing apps running under Lion. There are several workarounds. The sleep and wake technique you are using is one of them but you can also just sleep the display, rather than the whole Mac, with **⌘ + [⏏] + [⏏]**, which is quicker. Or hit **⌘ + [Esc]** and then left-click to cancel the drag completely.

For a more permanent solution, you need to find which driver is causing the problem for you. The most common ones reported so far are DisplayPad, iDisplay and DisplayLink. Just trashing the application won't fix the problem because the system extensions will be left behind. These are in */System/Library/Extensions* and you'll need to delete these yourself. For DisplayPad, they are DisplayPadDriver.kext and

>> MACFIXIT TIPS / Office for Mac 2011 Service Pack 2

Microsoft has made its Service Pack 2 for *Office for Mac 2011* available to users for download. This update addresses a number of problems users have been having with *Outlook*, but also fixes some aspects of *Word*, *Excel*, and *PowerPoint*.

The update is available via Microsoft's included *AutoUpdate* utility, but can also be downloaded from Microsoft's website (www.microsoft.com/download/en/details.aspx?id=29419). The update is about 110MB in size, and after

installing the version of your *Office* installation will be shown as 14.2.0.

With the release of *Office 2011*, Microsoft replaced its old *Entourage* email client for OS X with a whole new program that brings many of the same features of *Outlook* for Windows to OS X. However, because it is a new program, Microsoft has received extensive feedback on desired features and bugs that it has been addressing. This latest update fixes a number of these, including the following:

- Sync performance with Exchange server
 - Performance improvements while deleting multiple items
 - Displaying email message content, and sending email
 - Improved in IMAP account sync and database rebuild utility performance.
- In addition to these fixes, the program has been enhanced to support the following new capabilities:
- Scheduling resources in the calendar
 - Distribution list expansion

- Day number display in the calendar.

As for the remaining *Office* programs, Microsoft has updated them to better utilise Lion's full-screen view, and has improved the grammar and spelling checks for some languages. In addition, Microsoft has improved the integration of its SkyDrive online collaboration and storage feature.



» MACFIXIT TIPS / Flashback malware attack response

Apple has released an integrated tool to remove Flashback, malware designed to steal user information that was estimated to be present in more than half a million machines at the beginning of April. The tool, which was made available as part of a security update to Java (<http://support.apple.com/kb/HT5242>) came two days after Apple said it was working on an automated way for users to remove the infection.

Flashback is a form of malware designed to grab passwords and

other information from users through their web browser and other applications. A user typically mistakes it for a legitimate browser plug-in while visiting a malicious website. At that point, the software installs code designed to gather personal information and send it back to remote servers. In its most recent incarnations, the software can install itself without user interaction. According to Apple, the new tool removes “the most common variants” of the malware, as well as turning off

automatic execution of Java applets on web pages.

After being discovered by Russian antivirus company Dr Web earlier this month, several security firms – including Kaspersky and Symantec – verified its prevalence, while noting that infections have been in a decline. Symantec estimated around 600,000 machines had been infected with the malware worldwide. Apple’s removal tool joins a small number of other solutions created to detect and remove the malware. F-Secure

released (<http://cnet.co/K2e0xL>) a small piece of software that makes use of AppleScript to detect it and make any necessary repairs, with Symantec rolling out its own such tool (www.norton.com/flashback), just ahead of Apple’s. Additionally, Kaspersky launched a website to check for infections: <http://flashbackcheck.com>.



DisplayPadFramebuffer.kext, DisplayLink uses DisplayLink.kext and so on. Basically, if you see anything in the Extensions folder that begins with ‘Display’, it’s probably worth moving it out of there to a temporary folder, restarting your MacBook and trying again. Once you have confirmed that the problem has gone, you can drag the app itself to the Trash as well.

Of course, this is just a temporary solution. The only way you’ll be able to use your screen-sharing app under Lion is for the developers to debug their drivers. By the time you read this, Mountain Lion will be almost out, so some developers probably won’t correct the bug until the Mountain Lion version of their software.

“How can I assign function keys to four symbols?”

Q I have a question about assigning symbols to F keys. How would I go about setting the four symbols I use when making notes of bridge conventions? I want to be able to type a note and insert playing-card symbols, instead of referring to the names of the suits. I would prefer to assign the symbols to **F1**–**F4**, and to be able to use *Word* for the Mac, *Pages* and email.

Brian Ford

A If you only needed to do this in *Word*, it would be really easy.

You can just record a new macro for each suit and click Insert > Symbol > Advanced Symbol... to add the correct symbol. You can set the keyboard shortcut for each macro to whatever key you like. Modern Mac keyboards use **F1**–**F4** for brightness, Exposé and Launchpad functions, so if you want to remap those, you’ll need to tick Use all **F1**, **F2**, etc. keys as standard function keys in the Keyboard preferences pane.

This won’t work for anything outside *Word* though. For a more global solution you’ll need some extra software. Like *Butler*, for instance (<http://manytricks.com/butler>). This does a lot more than you need, but it will definitely get the job done. Click the + icon in the bottom-left of the window to create a new smart item and choose Text. Use the OS X Character Viewer to insert one of the suit symbols on the Text tab and then click Triggers to assign it to one of the function keys.

“My iMac can’t see my printer when it’s connected”

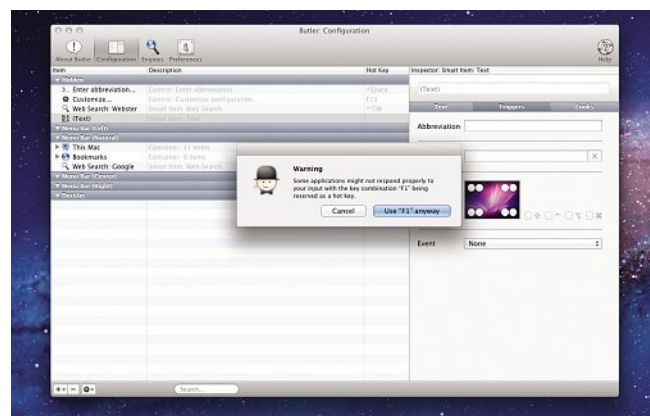
Q I am running a 27-inch iMac (mid 2010) with Lion. I have an OKI MC560 printer. I have updated the driver for the printer. Lion is also up to date. When I turn on the printer, 50% of the time I get a message “printer not connected” when it patently is, at least physically. If I unplug and replug the lead at the printer it

sometimes connects. I may have to do this three or four times. I have changed the cable and this makes no difference. Do you have any sage advice?

Professor David Cooke

A “Printer not connected” is the error message displayed when the Mac tries to query the printer’s status on the USB cable and the request times out. A disconnected cable *could* cause this, but so could several other things. In your case, since plugging and unplugging sometimes helps, I’d say that you either have an intermittent connection on the USB port of your printer, or else the USB hub is running close to the 500mA current limit for the USB bus. This might cause the printer to not ‘hear’ the status query from the Mac. Try plugging the printer directly into one of your iMac’s USB ports, rather than a port in a USB hub or the keyboard, to see if that helps. »

Automation programs like *Butler* let you set up hotkey macros for all sorts of useful things.



>> QUICK TIP



If you have several different virtual desktops

set up with Spaces, you can assign a different wallpaper to each one. This makes it easier to tell which desktop space you are using, even if you don't have any windows open at the time.

"Isn't it about time Apple offered up a basic modem?"

Q Can I raise the old chestnut of Apple not doing modems? As a long-term user of Apple and reader of *MacFormat*, I am once again frustrated with Apple not including a modem in peripherals such as its remote base station. I have just upgraded to a fibre optic service via BT/Plusnet and have been "given" the cheap and cheerful EchoLife HG612 modem as supplied. It is already running hot and I know from past experience with DSL modems from ISPs that it's only a matter of time before it gives up. Previously I had converted to a Vigor DSL modem with excellent results, but this is not compatible with fibre optics and I simply cannot find a standalone modem except when part of a router - which I don't need. Surely Apple is missing an opportunity here as well as disappointing its fans?

Bruce Boaden

A I imagine that Apple has crunched the numbers and concluded that it isn't disappointing enough people to make it worthwhile. Third-party modems aimed at the consumer market are increasingly rare nowadays, from any manufacturer, and for fibre-optic broadband, rarer

still. Your ISP (Plusnet) is reselling a Fibre To The Cabinet (FTTC) service that is provided by BT. This means that BT runs fibre-optic cable to a green box in the street and connects this to the copper phone cable that runs to your house. Plusnet leases this connection wholesale from BT and then resells it to you. BT has its own particular requirements for a VDSL2 (fibre-optic) modem because it wants to be able to monitor your connection remotely to keep an eye on the line quality and collect data that helps them plan upgrades. If you used Virgin Media, those requirements would be slightly different. The same would apply to all the different providers in the US and around the world. The result is a highly fragmented market that makes it impossible for Apple to produce a single modem model.

The EchoLife HG612, which is made by Huawei, does run very hot and there are lots of reports of it failing prematurely. But it's for Plusnet to replace it when it does. There's a second generation model that BT has begun rolling out this year that runs a little cooler.

"Can I use an iMac screen as an external display?"

Q I have an LCD TV/monitor that I use as a secondary display for two laptops: a MacBook Pro and my work laptop (using a standard



You can use an iPad to extend your Mac's display with the AirDisplay app (<http://avatron.com/apps/air-display>).

VGA output). I was considering replacing the TV with an iMac (possibly with USB TV added) and have had conflicting opinions on the ability to use the iMac as an external display.

Neil Jenkins

A If you have a 2009 or 2010 iMac with a mini DisplayPort, you can connect another DisplayPort (or mini DisplayPort) device and use the iMac as a (very expensive) monitor. The cable to connect them is about £35 and you need to hit **⌘ + F2** on the iMac to switch it between native mode and Target Display mode. But the new iMacs come with Thunderbolt ports and these aren't backwards compatible with DisplayPort. Thunderbolt iMacs can

>> MACFIXIT TIPS / Recovering closed web browser tabs

When multitasking in OS X it's not uncommon to have a web browser open and have multiple tabs open in multiple windows. Sometimes this results in clutter that is quickly managed by pressing **⌘ + W** multiple times to rapidly close the tabs, which can lead to the inadvertent closing of needed windows.

While you can use the browser's history menu to open recently visited pages, in some instances the page that was closed had been open for a while, so it can be harder to find or even remember what it was.

If you find yourself in a situation where you need to quickly reopen a page in *Safari*, try the following.

Quick Undos

In instances where you have just closed a tab or two and need to restore them, press **⌘ + Z** or choose **Undo** from the **Edit** menu to restore them. The Undo option will only work on the current window, so if you close an entire window containing tabs, then the Undo command will work on the next active window and not the one that was closed.

However, you can still restore the last closed window by choosing **Reopen Last Closed Window** from the **History** menu.

You can also restore all windows from the last time *Safari* was open by selecting the option to do so from the same **History** menu. This option is a little redundant to Apple's Resume feature that should perform a similar function in OS X Lion, but offers you the ability to restore your session if you have disabled Resume in the **General** pane of *System Preferences*. If you use *Firefox* or *Chrome* instead of

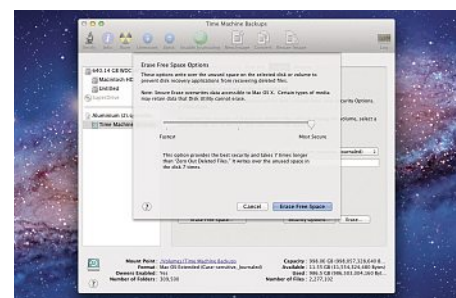
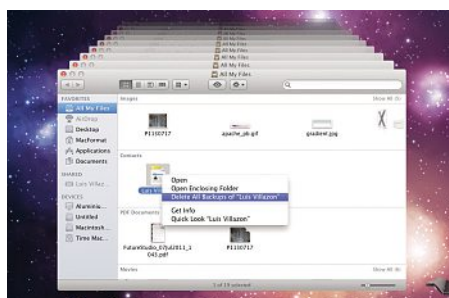
Safari, these browsers have similar options. Unfortunately neither make use of the **Undo** feature to restore tabs or windows, but you can use the **History** menu to access various tab and restore functions in these and other third-party browsers.

Tips supplied by MacFixIt.com

MacFixIt, founded in 1996 by Ted Landau, has grown into the premiere destination for users seeking resolutions to bugs and conflicts. Visit www.macfixit.com for the latest Mac information.



>> HOW TO / Completely erase a file



01 Secure deletion?

The Secure Empty Trash function in *Finder* makes sure that deleted files can't be recovered from your hard disk later. But if you use *Time Machine*, it's the work of a moment to restore them, no matter how securely they were erased from your main disk.

02 Erase from Time Machine

If you Enter *Time Machine*, you can right-click any file or folder and choose **Delete all backups of**. *Time Machine* will go right through all the archives and remove every backup of the file across the whole disk. They don't go into the trash, they are just deleted.

03 No to forensic recovery

It's still not a secure erase though. With the right utility software, someone could easily unerase these *Time Machine* files. To fix this, open *Disk Utility* (in */Applications/Utilities*) select the *Time Machine* volume, and click **Erase** > **Erase Free Space**. ●

only act as an external monitor for other Thunderbolt devices – new MacBooks, basically. And the prospects for your VGA work laptop are even more bleak. VGA is an analogue signal. DisplayPort and Thunderbolt are both digital.

“How can I read these PAF files on my iMac?”

Q I've received a disc containing PAF and EXE files, which I cannot open with my iMac using OS 10.6.8 and Reunion 9.0c. Is there any way of doing this? I have no

contact with the disc originator, to obtain a new disc in GEDCOM format.
Peter Kerry

A Since GEDCOM is the file format for genealogy data, I'm going to assume that the PAF files are from Personal Ancestral File. This is a genealogy application created by the Mormon church as part of their FamilySearch.org website. If you go to www.syniumsoftware.com, you can download the Mac version of this app, which is called *MacFamilyTree*. It costs \$60 (about £38) but you can download the trial for free. You can't save or export from the trial version, but you'll be able to read the PAF files at least, which might be enough for you. The EXE files on the disc are Windows executable files; ie apps. You can't run those on your Mac, without installing Windows through Boot Camp or emulating with *Parallels* or *VMWare*. But you probably don't need to. I expect they are just viewer apps for the PAF files, which you won't need once you have *MacFamilyTree*.

“Odd backup files in the Trash refuse to be deleted”

Q Normally when I secure empty my Trash, everything deletes as expected. When I am backing up with *Time Machine* connected to a LaCie external

drive, the Trash can indicates trash content. However, when I secure-delete, the process starts but after a short time a note about locked and unlocked items comes up requesting instructions. If I press “delete all items” the process stops within a few seconds but with trash still being shown. If *Time Machine* is turned off and the external drive disconnected the Trash can indicates empty. Why?

David French

A The Trash in the Dock isn't a single folder. It's a composite view of the contents of every personal 'Trash' folder for each user on each writable volume. If your Trash only shows that there are items in it when you connect the external drive, it follows that the deleted files are on that drive. There are lots of things that can result in files that resist your initial attempts to delete them. Broken permissions, invalid characters in the filename and a corrupted filing system are the main ones. Generally, the Trash on a *Time Machine* volume should be left well alone.

You can try this in *Terminal*:

```
sudo rm -rf /Volumes/<your Time Machine volume name>/Trash/*
```

But unless this fixes the weirdness you are experiencing, I wouldn't take any more risks with the integrity of the *Time Machine* volume. Erase the disk and create a new TM backup. ●



Thunderbolt ports are not backwards compatible with DisplayPort, limiting the use of new Macs as external monitors.

>> QUICK TIP

In Lion, you can streamline your System

Preferences window. Click **View > Customize...** and then clear the tick next to any preference icons that you don't use very often. You can still access the full list from the **View** menu.

NEW!

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"Image quality is high and plenty of detail is captured"

CANON POWERSHOT G1 X P97

Reviews

● **HARDWARE** ● **SOFTWARE** ● **GAMES** ● **iOS**



Ian Osborne
Tech Champion

Adobe has an enviable reputation for high-quality, powerful and versatile software. For many years, *InDesign* has been the desktop publishing app of choice for professional graphic designers, *Photoshop* is unrivalled as a pro-level image-editing tool and video editors everywhere love *Premiere Pro*. But in the past, these applications have been cursed with over-complicated user interfaces. Design and video professionals can get incredible results from them, but beginners are frequently frustrated by

the steep learning curve. Could all this change with the latest release of Adobe's *Creative Suite, CS6*? We review several of the suite's key applications and give an overview of the package as a whole, starting on page 86.

We've long been spoiled for choice when looking for cheap, pocket-sized compact cameras, and well served by high-end DSLRs, but premium-quality compacts that do more than take snaps are harder to find. Photographers will welcome Canon's new *PowerShot G1 X*, reviewed over on page 97.

>> OUR AWARDS



A product that receives the MacFormat Choice award is the best in its class when reviewed.



Used in our Group Tests, MacFormat Winner indicates the product that we feel stands out.

RATINGS EXPLAINED: ★★★★★ Excellent ★★★★★ Very good ★★★★★ Good ★★★★★ Adequate ★★★★★ Poor

>> PROFESSIONAL GRAPHICS EDITING APP

Adobe Photoshop CS6

Full £556 Upgrade £159 Adobe updates its flagship product with new tools and a whole new look

KEY INFO

Developer: Adobe
www.adobe.com/uk

REQUIREMENTS

OS: OS X 10.6.8 or 10.7

Processor: Multicore Intel with 64-bit support **RAM:** 1GB RAM

Disk space: 2GB

PROS & CONS

- ✚ Excellent new Blur Gallery
- ✚ Basic but effective video editing
- ✚ Content-aware Move and Patch
- ✚ Camera Raw 7 improvements
- ⊖ Expensive against competition
- ⊖ Many features you may not use

VERDICT

★★★★★

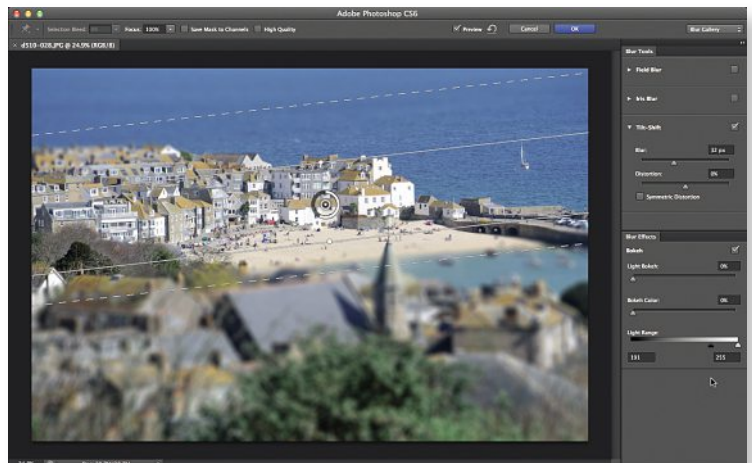
"The new tools are great, but mostly they make existing techniques easier rather than making new things possible."

The new interface design is the first thing to catch your eye. It uses darker tones to make your images stand out more, and this gives it more visual consistency with *Lightroom* and, for that matter, *Photoshop Elements*. You can choose one of four different brightness values in the Preferences if you're not happy with the default. And staying on a purely functional level, a new Background Save and Auto-recovery option should provide a level of protection against crashes, while the introduction of Adobe's Mercury Graphics Engine is designed to speed up processor-intensive tools like Liquify, Puppet Warp and Transform.

Plenty of additions

The new features include much more sophisticated cropping options, content-aware Move and Patch tools, an interesting Blur Gallery, 'adaptive' wide-angle lens adjustments, skintone-aware selections, improved auto adjustments and, surprisingly, some useful video editing tools.

When you crop your photos you can now use a range of overlays, such as the Golden Ratio, Rule of Thirds or a simple grid to help you decide on the composition. You can save crop presets which include image size and resolution and, most significantly, crops are now non-destructive. You can come back later, in other words, and re-do them if need be. The content-aware Move and Patch tools



The new Blur Gallery offers Iris Blur (depth of field), Tilt-Shift and Field Blur effects.

can offer dramatically faster and more effective alternatives to the Clone Stamp tool. In ideal conditions, you can select and drag an object to a different part of the picture and have the gap filled in automatically. In practice, this depends on the image, the uniformity and size of the background, and its proximity to other objects that might interfere with the outcome. It's more alchemy than science, but when it works, it's great.

The Blur Gallery is fantastic too, adding a cinematic or 'film' look to

they need – and they don't have to launch a separate program to do it.

CS6 also comes with a new version of *Adobe Camera Raw*. ACR 7 (yes, it's annoying that the version numbers are out of step) has a new processing engine and improved tone-mapping, leading to a redesign of the tonal controls and better results when recovering shadows and highlights in RAW files. ACR also brings a greater range of controls to the Adjustment Brush, adding localised white balance, noise reduction and moiré corrections.

"The new features include more sophisticated cropping options, content-aware Move and Patch tools and an interesting Blur Gallery"

You can find the perfect crop using a series of new compositional overlays.



digital images. Previously, you might have needed a plug-in, or some complex manual processes to achieve this, but the new tools offer quick differential focus or tilt-shift effects with plenty of manual control.

Video editing tools are a very welcome addition. Increasingly, there's a crossover between stills photography and video, particularly for professional photographers.

Photoshop CS6 can trim and combine video clips, insert transitions and even add titles. It's hardly *Premiere*, or even *Premiere Elements*, but many photographers will find it's just what

The improvements here are exactly the same as those in *Lightroom 4*, as that too is built around ACR 7. It's good that there's consistency between the two products, but it also creates an overlap that could make it harder to figure out which of the two programs you need.

If your interests are photographic, *Lightroom 4*'s editing tools are now so sophisticated that you may not often need *Photoshop* at all. And if you do, you might find *Elements 10* perfectly adequate for the layers and other effects that *Lightroom* can't do.

Rod Lawton

>>DESKTOP PUBLISHING SOFTWARE

Adobe InDesign CS6

Full £556 Upgrade £95 The desktop publisher's foremost work environment gets the CS6 treatment

The new *InDesign CS6* shows Adobe's commitment to design and page layout. The new features *InDesign* boasts are intended to make life easier for busy layout production work and also for anyone making page designs for more than one final format.

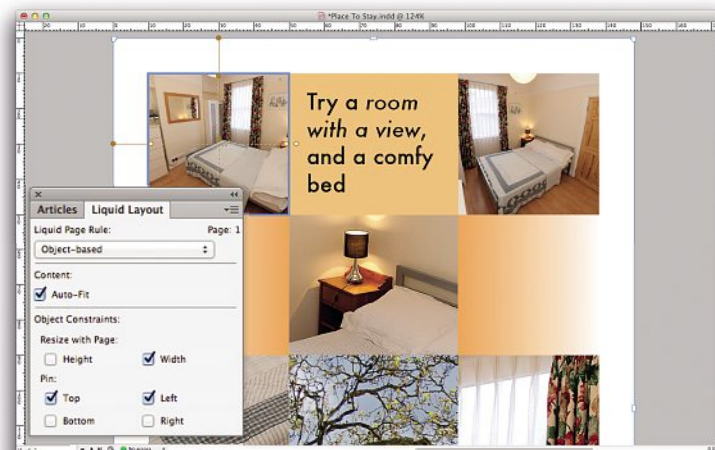
Everyone in the DTP field is being asked to do more kinds of work than ever before – and not just taking pages onto iPads, although that's definitely something we hear regularly. Repurposing layouts into new page sizes is where the Liquid Layout feature comes in handy. This lets pages be reshaped and the contents adjust, slide or resize to fit into the new dimensions. It's a strange thing to see, but it works well – and much better than the Layout Adjustment feature that's been around in previous *InDesign* versions.

You use the Liquid Layout window to tell objects whether they should grow, be pinned to sides of the page, or simply do an 'auto fit' that leaves

"Repurposing layouts into new page sizes is where Liquid Layout comes in handy. Shape a page and the contents adjust accordingly"

the decisions up to *InDesign*. Then use the Page Tool to pull the page into a different shape. This way you can preview how things will change when the document is resized, or when a new 'alternate layout' is made from the current one.

Alternate layouts finally make iPad layouts a little easier to manage. These put different layout page sizes into the same document. You can choose which set of pages to see, or show more than one set at once by splitting the window. The Pages palette shows the different layouts in a document. If you need to make multiple versions of a layout, this is great news. But watch out, if you add a page into one layout it isn't automatically added into the other: there is no synchronisation.



Reshaping a layout using the Liquid Layout feature can be tested using the Page Tool.

The Content Collector is another powerhouse trick for busy production staff. Choose this tool – the only new icon in the Tools palette – to show the Content Collector window, then click on items to add them to it. Switch to the Content Placer tool and you can place them back on the page in the order they were collected. This is

perfect for copying lots of items from one document or layout to another. They don't stay in the Content Collector when they're placed again, so this feature doesn't replace the Library for storing master copies of items. Think of it as visual copy and paste on steroids.

Another new feature is the ability to insert HTML content as objects into a page layout. This means more options for making iPad folio documents or EPUB books, but not so much for print work. Exporting to PDF with HTML items in a layout created black boxes in our tests, even with simple text. It also didn't let us put more than one portion of HTML into a document at once: every HTML item ended up with the same content. More impressive is the ability to make

PDF forms from inside *InDesign CS6*. It is actually easier to make them here than in *Acrobat Pro*, although it is still something you will need to take time to understand. Select an item and use the Buttons and Forms palette window to set up the form item type and behaviour. Text boxes can be turned into form fields, even password ones, and graphic buttons and checkboxes can be set.

Teething bugs aside, *InDesign CS6* seems to be a robust and useful upgrade. If you don't specifically need the key update features then you probably shouldn't get too excited about this. But if you do, well, they should make your life much easier – once you get your head around how to use them properly.

Caspian Kidd

KEY INFO

Developer: Adobe
www.adobe.com/uk

REQUIREMENTS

OS: OS X 10.6.8 or 10.7
Processor: Multicore Intel with 64-bit support **RAM:** 1GB RAM
Disk space: 2GB

PROS & CONS

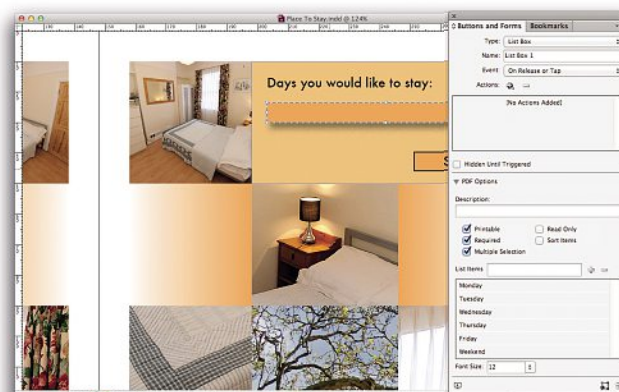
- + Liquid Layout page reshaping
- + Alternate Layout management
- + Powerful PDF form creation
- + Content Collector for media re-use
- Some features are complex
- Some bugginess still evident

VERDICT

★★★★★

"A robust and mature update to a powerful DTP program, although some features do take some time to master."

The enhanced Button and Forms palette makes InDesign a good tool for PDF form creation.



>> PROFESSIONAL VECTOR DRAWING APP

Adobe Illustrator CS6



Full £476 Upgrade £190 The industry-standard drawing and illustration tool gets a new interface

KEY INFO

Developer: Adobe
www.adobe.co.uk

REQUIREMENTS

OS: OS X 10.6.8 or 10.7 **RAM:** 2GB (8GB recommended) **HD:** 2GB of available hard-disk space
Display: 1024x768 resolution

PROS & CONS

- ⊕ Slick new interface
- ⊕ Fast!
- ⊕ Powerful pattern creation tools
- ⊕ Better bitmap tracing tools
- ⊕ Gradients on strokes
- ⊖ Novices will find toolset baffling

VERDICT

★★★★★

"It's hard not to like Illustrator CS6. Already a hugely powerful tool, this release speeds it up and adds new pattern tools."

Adobe Illustrator has long been the choice for illustration professionals, designers and anyone who wants to work with infinitely scalable vector graphics. Over the years it's gained some highly impressive features, such as mesh tools for drawing photorealistic objects, perspective tools for taking the pain out of vanishing points and much, much more. So, what can CS6 bring? Before we get onto features, let's talk about the interface and the tuning that's gone on under the bonnet.

Darker surroundings

The interface, like *Photoshop's* by default, is now charcoal grey. It gives *Illustrator* a more refined, professional feel. If it's a little much, you can change the interface colour via Preferences (unlike *Photoshop's* theme-based approach). It's a minor, but lovely touch. But the real thing you notice about *Illustrator* is its speed. It's blazing fast. Mainly thanks to the Mercury Performance System and native 64-bit support, complex documents with meshes, gradients and many points can be manipulated with relative ease. Redraw certainly seems snappier as well.

Beyond the speed improvements, *Illustrator* does bring some new and improved features to the table. The most notable is undoubtedly the new pattern creation tools. Creating a tiled pattern and editing it is now



The new pattern tools are easy to use and extremely powerful. Designers will love them...

extremely easy: open up or draw your object that you want to be repeated and then go to Object > Pattern > Make. Your object then repeats on the art board. The Pattern Options panel enables you to control the pattern, with a really handy slider enabling you to dim your instances so you can work on and edit the original object. As you do edit it, the repeats update. The pattern is automatically added to the Swatches panel and updates when you hit Done in pattern creation mode. You can choose to save a copy

good job. And there are more options for tracing than ever before. The tool is controlled by the context-sensitive Control Panel or the new Image Trace panel, and you can apply presets or tweak settings manually. Whilst you won't always use it, Image Trace is a powerful replacement for the often hit-and-miss Live Trace, and when you do need it, it'll come in very handy.

The final addition of note is being able to add gradients to strokes. We don't know why this wasn't in previous versions, but it's a welcome

"The real thing you notice about Illustrator is the speed. It's blazingly fast, mainly thanks to the Mercury Performance System"

to add another swatch to the Swatches panel. But the best thing? Double-clicking the swatch in the Swatches panel enables you to go back to edit the pattern. When you update it, it updates any object the pattern is applied to. It's quite brilliant and textile artists, designers and illustrators who use patterns in their work will absolutely love it.

The other 'big' feature is the removal of Live Trace – being replaced with a new bitmap tracing engine called Image Trace. Now, don't expect this to magically turn any photos into vector artwork, but it does a pretty

addition – especially for those designing photorealistic vector artwork. There's also some tweaks to the Gaussian Blur effect and minor panel updates, including a Scale Strokes & Effects checkbox added to the Transform panel.

Illustrator remains hugely powerful, and a tool that is reliable, fast (as long as you have a good amount of RAM) and pretty much vital to any creative pro. The new pattern creation features are a joy to use, and the speed of this version alone will impress any daily user of the app.

Steve Paris

Image Trace is a replacement for Live Trace, and turns bitmaps into vectors admirably.



>> PROFESSIONAL VIDEO EDITING APP

Adobe Premiere Pro CS6

Full £675 Upgrade £116 Is the redesigned version enough to warrant a switch or an upgrade?

When Apple released *Final Cut Pro X* last year, many veterans were up in arms: it wasn't just an update to the program they'd come to know, love and rely on, it was a complete departure from what they were used to. You either loved it or hated it. Those who fell into the latter category started to shop around, and Adobe was only too pleased to welcome new clients to its platform.

With the release of the latest version, part of the major *CS6* update, Adobe is working very hard to make sure its clientele stays put.

The first thing you'll notice is that the entire interface has been redesigned. Everything is centred around the editing process with very large Source and Program monitors at the top, and huge thumbnails in the browser section. Although they now take up a lot more room, they're also extremely useful as you can see at a glance which clip you'd like to work with next. Adobe has definitely taken

"When it comes to editing, Premiere makes it very easy. It's good to see that a lot of new features are a response to Final Cut Pro"

a cue from *iMovie* and *Final Cut Pro X*: move your cursor over a clip to skim through your footage. It also does one better: click on the clip to reveal a small timeline. Drag its playhead to look through it as well, and if you've already set In and Out points to that clip, they'll appear there as well (this functionality almost makes the Source monitor redundant).

Such a focus on your clips means that there was less room to display your available tools, like the traditional jog and shuttle controls, although it's hard to imagine who would miss them when everything can be controlled with keyboard shortcuts – which is undoubtedly a much more efficient way of working with an editing program. And when it comes to editing, *Premiere* makes it



The new interface has been redesigned to give it a stronger focus on the clips you're using.

very easy. It's good to see that a lot of new features appear to be a direct response to *Final Cut Pro* – it's great when competition brings out the best in the competitors.

In no particular order, you can drag clips from any window onto the timeline, which can handle many different formats within the same

sequence without skipping a beat. The Mercury playback engine is actually very impressive and played everything back in real time, even clips with many effects applied.

There are some new editing tools available, like double-clicking on an edit point, which brings up a trim view where you can alter both sides of the edit at the same time. You can even insert a default transition between your clips from there, and all this is done from the Program Monitor.

You'll find a few new video effects as well, like Warp Stabiliser, which has the double purpose of stabilising your shots (as long as your jitters aren't too extreme) and compensating for rolling shutter. This is often a problem with CMOS sensor-equipped cameras which create a wobble effect if the

camera is moved too fast. Just as importantly, the colour correction tools have been redesigned and the three-way colour corrector comes with many more options to help you tweak your footage exactly.

If you work a lot with multiple cameras, you'll definitely appreciate the fact that *Premiere Pro CS6* can finally handle more than four angles. In fact that number is now limited by your Mac's computing power. It's also been designed with the future in mind by introducing support to some of the latest formats. Of course DV and HD are still present, but you can now also work with 2K, 4K and 5K with no need to convert the footage prior to being able to use it. All of which makes this a worthy upgrade.

Steve Paris

KEY INFO

Developer: Adobe
www.adobe.com/uk

REQUIREMENTS

OS: OS X 10.6.8 or later **Processor:** Multicore Intel with 64-bit support
RAM: 4GB **Disk space:** 4GB
Display resolution: 1280x900

PROS & CONS

- + Skimmable thumbnails
- + New Trimming tools
- + Better colour correction
- + Support for modern formats
- + Better multi-camera support
- No groundbreaking new ideas

VERDICT

★★★★★

"This is a strong upgrade that should satisfy existing users and tempt others to give it some serious consideration."

Colour Correction offers many new tools along with traditional ones.



>> CREATIVE SOFTWARE SUITE

Adobe CS6 and Creative Cloud

With CS6 there's a new way to get the most from Adobe's Creative Suite applications

KEY INFO

Developer: Adobe
www.adobe.com/uk

PRICING

Creative Cloud: £38 p/month (annual contract), £57 monthly, £22 p/month for existing CS users (CS3 or later, based on annual contract)
CS6 suite editions: See the Adobe website for full suite pricing details and bundle comparison guide

REQUIREMENTS

Internet connection, see individual CS6 reviews for app requirements

PROS & CONS

- ⊕ Cheaper access to CS tools
- ⊕ Install when you like
- ⊕ Online storage and data sync
- ⊕ Business Catalyst web hosting
- ⊕ TypeKit for web access to fonts
- ⊖ Pricy without annual contract

VERDICT

★★★★★
"A radical new way to get Adobe software. Time will tell how well it all works, but the monthly outlay is a good start."

Dreamweaver CS6 is smarter and helps users more in important areas.

The phrase 'hold onto your hats' comes to mind. Adobe's Creative Cloud is the biggest change to the company's approach to software since, well, ever. The biggest news is that if you buy into Adobe's Creative Cloud you get access to any and all of the programs in the *Creative Suite*.

Not just the design suite or the web suite, but everything, whenever you want it. You install whichever software you like, and delete it again when you don't want it around and need a bit more disk space. Adobe charges £38 per month for its cloud service, but only if you buy an annual contract; on the alternative month-to-month basis you pay a heftier £57.

You don't need to stay connected to the internet to use the programs and you get upgrades as they are released, all as normal. It's like having the complete CS6 installer kept online for whenever you need it. You can buy the *Creative Suite* in the traditional way instead, if you prefer,

"Buy into the Creative Cloud and you get access to not just the design suite or the web suite, but everything, whenever you want it"

but the Creative Cloud is cheaper and more convenient.

A Creative Cloud subscription also gives access to a few products that aren't part of the regular *Creative Suite* set. *Muse*, Adobe's visual web



The After Effects CS6 production process has been streamlined, featuring faster previews.

design tool, and *Edge*, the still-beta HTML5 animation software, are both exclusive to the Creative Cloud.

As well as the desktop software there are other offerings. *Business Catalyst* is available for web hosting and proofing, there's 20GB of cloud-based storage and device syncing, and *TypeKit* for using Adobe web

much more compatible with today's devices. Animations can be exported as HTML5 so they work on the iPad and don't need the *Flash* plug-in on desktops. Developers can embed the AIR 3.2 engine in Android apps so users don't need to install it separately, making *Flash* a more serious choice for mobile development.

Dreamweaver CS6 upgrades its templates and makes creating fluid grid structures much easier. These can be smart: they can be set up to reflow to different layout arrangements depending on the screen size. This means making websites that work well on desktops, tablets and mobiles is much easier than before. What's also improved is CSS support. Making clever animated rollovers and dynamic changing items used to take a lot of knowledge and custom coding, but now it's fairly easy.

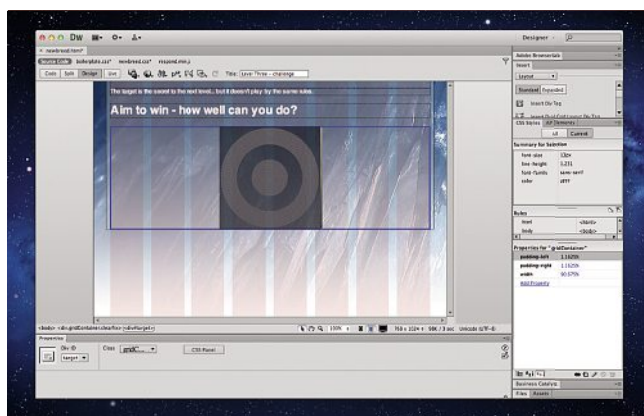
As covered earlier in the individual reviews, *Photoshop's* been given a speed boost and a cleaner interface. *InDesign's* updates focus on reusing content and repurposing page designs to take things from print to tablets and the web. *Illustrator* has a rebuilt tracing feature and new pattern-making abilities, while *Premiere Pro's* interface has been given a much-needed remake, and a very welcome speed boost.

Caspian Kidd

fonts in your online pages. We've covered much of the key software from the new *Creative Suite* on pages 86-89, but it's worth taking a quick look at the other packages that have been updated for CS6 and made available through Creative Cloud.

After Effects, the video compositing software, has been given what Adobe calls its biggest update in a decade. It can integrate and work with depth information, providing a '2.5D' compositing environment for integrating video and graphics with 3D geometry. It also boosts performance massively. A 'Global Performance Cache' caches renders cleverly so that they can be reused, even after closing a project.

Flash is getting bigger and more powerful, and the CS6 output is now



>>DISK UTILITY

Easemac CleanGenius 3.0

£20 All you need to free up valuable disk space

KEY INFO

Developer: Easemac
www.easemac.com

REQUIREMENTS

OS: OS X 10.6 or later **RAM:** 512MB
Disk space: 5MB

PROS & CONS

- ⊕ Comprehensive tools
- ⊕ File duplicate finder
- ⊖ No cleaning unused languages
- ⊖ Interface lacks polish

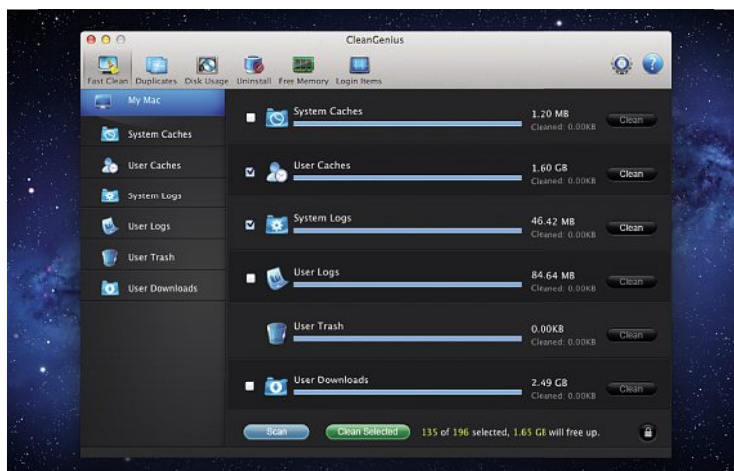
VERDICT

★★★★★

"Clean Genius is a solid product, especially given its duplicate file finder."

With SSDs becoming standard, new Macs often come with smaller hard drives than their predecessors. This means that applications designed to free up drive space are back in vogue. *Clean Genius 3.0* includes virtually every tool you could possibly want for freeing up hard drive space. It does the basics that you'd expect, including cleaning out caches, logs and download folders – all the kinds of things that will invisibly eat into your free drive space. It does this quickly and efficiently, scanning them and deleting stuff in seconds.

But it does a lot more besides. The biggest additional feature in *Clean Genius* is the ability to hunt down duplicate files across your entire drive



Clean Genius' interface is easy to understand but isn't the prettiest thing we've seen.

or across selected parts of it. This isn't a quick process, and will take hours if you have a couple of terabytes with hundreds of thousands of files, but it's a great way to find those hidden duplicates you've probably made.

There's also the ability to free up memory (rather than drive space), which might be useful if you're using a Mac that's packing just a couple of gigabytes RAM.

There are a couple of missing features. Unlike some competitors such as *CleanMyMac*, it doesn't get rid of redundant language packs. Neither will it strip out universal binaries, (unused PowerPC code on Intel-based Macs). And the interface isn't as polished as *CleanMyMac* either, although it's certainly functional and straightforward enough to do the job.

Ian Betteridge

>>DATABASE

FileMaker Pro 12



£219 (£131 upgrade) for a designer-friendly version of the cross-platform database

KEY INFO

Developer: FileMaker, Inc
www.filemaker.co.uk

REQUIREMENTS

OS: OS X v10.6 **Processor:** Intel-based Mac **RAM:** 1GB **Display:** 1024x768 resolution

PROS & CONS

- ⊕ New UI tools: gradients, rollovers
- ⊕ Drag and drop, and encryption
- ⊕ Free iOS apps
- ⊖ File format change

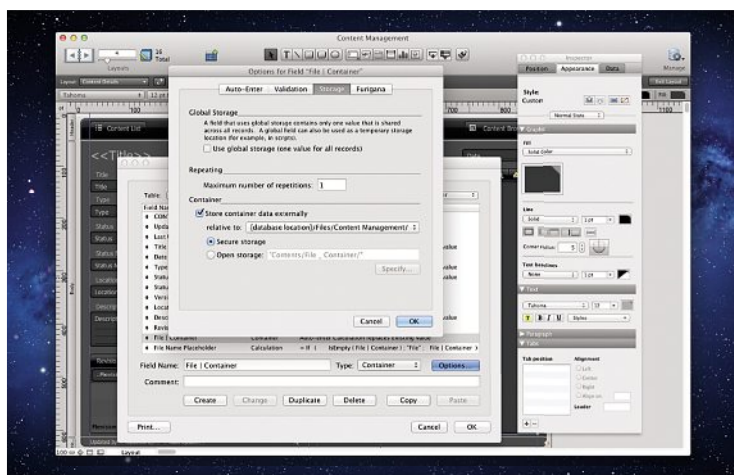
VERDICT

★★★★★

"A must-have upgrade for pro users. Free iOS apps are useful for first-timers."

FileMaker's latest incarnation of its flagship database product, *FileMaker Pro 12*, is a cross-platform app supporting Mac, Windows, iPad, iPhone, and the web. And make no mistake: version 12 is a huge jump, for quite a number of reasons, most of them good.

Under the hood it's as close to a complete UI rewrite as you can get: your existing databases will look exactly the same, but they're being rendered using an HTML/CSS engine. Layout elements can now take advantage of rounded corners, gradients, roll-overs, and image slicing, with helpful dynamic guides to speed up the design process. 40 improved templates, plus complete redesigns of the 16 starter solution DBs, showcase these changes.



Containers now handle drag and drop; with files stored on the server, encrypted if needed.

The server version has become a 64-bit app. *FileMaker* claims improved network performance, and the web engine has had a re-write too, making it more stable and faster. There are a few tweaks to calculations and script steps: the highlight is probably 'Insert from URL' which will make gathering web-based data much easier.

However, there is a price: *FMP Pro 12* uses a new file format, .fmp12, that

breaks the seamless backwards compatibility enjoyed by users of versions 7 through 11. Version 12 happily converts *FileMaker*.fp7 files, but you'll need to upgrade your entire userbase – clients and servers. To sweeten the blow, the iPhone and iPad versions are now free, and, given the massively improved design tools, iPad clients may be one way to go.

Hector Urquhart

>> FAVOURITES CLIENT

Favs 1.0.3

£6.99 Download and search your social network favourites with ease

KEY INFO

Developer: Dirk Holtwick
www.favsapp.com

REQUIREMENTS

OS: Mac OS X 10.7+

PROS & CONS

- ⊕ Supports many services
- ⊕ Fast search filtering
- ⊕ Smart preview function
- ⊖ Needs some tagging options

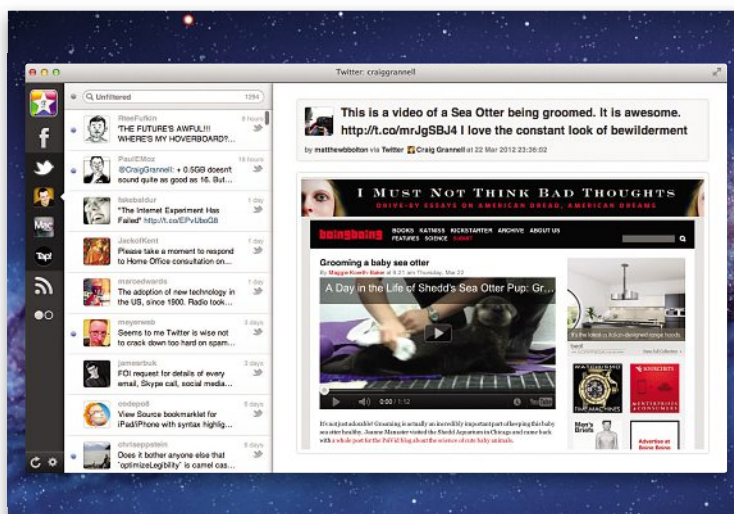
VERDICT

★★★★★

"Highly useful for anyone who wants to track social networking favourites."

Favs is an app no-one should need. You should be able to flag favourites on social networks and almost instantly find your curated content at a later date, no matter how far into the past it was defined. But back here on Planet Reality, favourites rapidly disappear from view, becoming difficult to find once they're more than a few days old. And if you engage with several social networks, you have the added complication of remembering which one you should start searching in.

In short: argh! At least, that is, until we discovered *Favs*, which elegantly deals with the problem. You sign into your networks and *Favs* quickly downloads your favourites. These can then be filtered using a search field, aggregated into a single feed, and previewed on an individual basis. Said



With Favs on your Dock, you never need lose a Twitter favourite or Facebook Like again!

previews are often smart – for example, select a Twitter favourite and you'll see the original tweet and information about who composed it, along with a preview of any web page the tweet links to. In full-screen mode, this preview's perfectly readable on most Macs, but you can also easily access the original source.

Clearly, *Favs* is an app for a particular type of person, who uses

social network favourites for more than passing compliments. But if you're that type of person, we reckon it'll only take minutes before *Favs* gains a permanent place in your Dock. And while we've a few niggles (despite it being 'meta', we'd love to be able to favourite our favourites – or at least tag them) the app fulfils its aims admirably.

Craig Grannell

>> DUPLICATES FINDER

Gemini 1.0.2

£5.49 Find duplicates and, oddly, have some fun

Developer: MacPaw **URL:** http://macpaw.com/gemini



For a while, it looked like computers would come with more storage than you could ever need, but some modern Macs are almost heading in the opposite direction. Solid-state drives mean you must now be a little careful about weighty files. Scanning for and trashing duplicates is a good way to claw back space, and *Gemini* is a user-friendly app that makes weeding out copies a breeze.

The interface is friendly, if a tad idiosyncratic and iOS-like. You load a folder and *Gemini* whirs away for a bit before presenting a multi-pane, easily navigable results list. Duplicates are determined on the basis of file data, not merely

names, and can be auto-selected, or you can manually check items to mark them for removal. It takes two subsequent confirmations before the files are visually shredded (but in reality moved to the Trash), ensuring you're unlikely to accidentally delete anything important. We'd like to see options for defining folders *Gemini* should always ignore, and a means to compare files across volumes, but otherwise this app is a good investment and, oddly, fun. **Craig Grannell**

VERDICT

★★★★★

"A rather knowingly quirky but also very usable and fast duplicates finder."

>> BROWSER SWITCHER

Switch 1.1

Free Quickly switch web pages between browsers

Developer: Dan Heming-Henes **URL:** http://easilymistaken.com/switch



It's not that common for people to use multiple browsers, but there are various reasons for doing so. Occasionally, websites only work in specific browsers, for example; elsewhere, web designers need to test sites across a range of browsers. Also, anyone who's removed *Flash Player* from their system can use *Chrome's* built-in Flash plug-in as a backup. *Switch* is a tiny menu bar app that is designed to make it very easy to switch web pages between browsers. It comes close to doing its job perfectly.

Switch lists your installed browsers in its menu. With a web page open and the browser at the front, select an alternative

from the menu and the page will be opened in that browser. *Switch's* preferences enable you to close the window after transfer, and you can also hold ⌘ when selecting, although the browser's own shortcuts sometimes interfere with this. It's also possible to restrict *Switch* to a single-click menu item that transfers pages to a sole user-defined browser. One thing that's missing, though, is keyboard shortcuts for switching – a pity. **Craig Grannell**

VERDICT

★★★★★

"A useful tool if you're often juggling web content across multiple browsers."

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>> WIRELESS DISPLAY STREAMER

honestech
nScreen Deluxe

£112 iOS screen projection to go?

KEY INFO

Manufacturer: honestech
http://uk.honestech.com

SPECIFICATIONS

Dimensions: 135x82x26mm
Other: 801.11g/n Wi-Fi, iPhone and iPad app available

PROS & CONS

- ⊕ Compact design
- ⊕ HDMI included
- ⊖ Expensive
- ⊖ Laggy

VERDICT

★★★★★

"An interesting solution to a common problem - but it just doesn't work that well."

There are lots of devices on the market that offer a wire-free alternative to watching your media on the big screen, so the honestech nScreen Deluxe certainly has its work cut out.

It connects to the TV via the HDMI cable and to the Mac through a wireless network connection. While this Wi-Fi connection offers a level of flexibility and range, it does come with a downside. You need to connect to the nScreen Deluxe's wireless network rather than your standard home wireless network. The device comes with an Ethernet port that you can connect straight to your modem or router, allowing you to access the internet through your Mac while

you're connected to the nScreen. However, if trailing a network cable from your router to the little box by your TV isn't going to be an easy option, then you're going to have to switch between the two wireless networks. We can't help but feel that honestech has missed a trick by including a network port, yet not including streaming services such as iPlayer or LOVEFiLM - something which other set top boxes include.

The software itself was easy to use, though it did crash a few times

Banish those cables by connecting your iPhone to a HDTV or projector.



>> RAID HARD DRIVE

Western Digital My Book
Thunderbolt Duo 4TB

£400 Thunderbolt and RAID combine for speed and capacity

KEY INFO

Manufacturer: Western Digital
http://wdc.com

SPECIFICATIONS

Form factor: 2x 3.5-inch
Dimensions: 165x157x99mm
Weight: 2.15kg

PROS & CONS

- ⊕ Beats FireWire 800 speeds
- ⊕ Can daisy-chain other devices
- ⊕ Improved access to replace a disk
- ⊖ Variable write speeds

VERDICT

★★★★★

"Its default, Striped mode is welcome, but Mirrored mode is inconsistent."

This is WD's first desktop drive to use an ultra-fast Thunderbolt interface. In fact, it has two such ports, so the drive and an external display can be connected to a Mac with just one by daisy-chaining the display from the drive. There are two disks inside, and WD has improved the marking and releasing of the mechanism that lets you in, should a disk need replacing.

They're configured as a striped array by default, for the full capacity of 4TB in a single volume, with the risk that everything is lost if one disk expires. However, it has tremendous speed benefits. With files of 2MB and larger, it averaged 298.4MB/second when reading, and 266.1MB/second when writing, but with large variation

A square on the top side denotes the way inside to replace a disk.

in write speeds, between 353.1MB/second down to a low of 217.2MB/second.

Fortunately, the supplied software enables you to easily reconfigure the hard disks as a mirrored array, halving the usable capacity and slowing transfer rates, but with the insurance of having two copies of your data. In this mode, read speeds averaged 189.1MB/second, and 126.4MB when writing. We found less variation in write speed in this mode. It peaked at 176.8MB/second, and hit a low of 111.7MB/second with a 100MB file.



The Thunderbolt Duo delivers speeds in excess of the equivalent FireWire 800-equipped Studio II drive, and it can be bought for £400, which isn't a huge premium. However, its performance is inconsistent compared to some other Thunderbolt RAID arrays, such as LaCie's 2big, which are a better option when sustained high speed is essential.

Alan Stonebridge



The inAir 5000 is stylish enough to look good in any room.

>> AIRPLAY SPEAKERS

Altec Lansing inAir 5000

£445 Does Altec Lansing's first AirPlay speaker deliver a sound that matches its price?

Altec Lansing's inAir 5000 is a glorious set of AirPlay speakers. Setting it up is easy. Download a free app for iOS, plug it into the speaker and walk through the couple of steps it takes to name the device and connect it to your Wi-Fi network. Alternatively, you can configure it by connecting to a network it creates temporarily through a browser on your computer, or using WPS on supported routers. You can then send music wirelessly straight from an iOS device running iOS 4.2 – which can only stream to one speaker at a time – or by streaming music to one or more speakers from iTunes on your PC or Mac.

What comes out of the inAir 5000 is gorgeous. At times, we worried that the rich low-end would

overwhelm everything else, but the speakers usually proved us wrong. At the start of Ben Folds' 'Adelaide', for example, the thumping bass that starts the track is awesome, but the spiky percussion pings in at the top end with wonderful clarity and the vocals float right on top of everything with tremendous presence. On clear, acoustic, lightly-produced tracks, you can close your eyes and imagine the singer is in the room with you.

But while the honeyed tones are deeply pleasing, they're not perfect

"You can send music wirelessly straight from an iOS device running iOS 4.2, or from iTunes on a Mac"

for everything. You might prefer a sharper, more neutral overall tone, for example, or you may listen to music ripped from vinyl that already sounds soft – in which case the overall effect might sound muddled.

There's no dock connector, but you can plug your iPhone, iPad or iPod into a USB port on the back. And there's a 3.5mm jack for any audio device with a headphone socket. The USB port can't charge an iPad, but it charges everything else, and there's a 'dim' mode in which the speaker is off but devices still charge. There's a headphone port too, so you can plug in and listen to music streamed to the inAir 5000 over AirPlay.

inAir 5000 is beautiful and well-made, and we love its mellow, vinyl sound. If you can afford it, buy it.

Chris Phin

KEY INFO

Manufacturer: Altec Lansing
www.altecmm.com

SPECIFICATIONS

Drivers: 2x1" 20W high, 2x3" 20W mid, 1x4" 40W low **Dimensions:** 48.3x17.1x19.1cm **Weight:** 3.9kg

PROS & CONS

- ⊕ Easy to set up
- ⊕ Excellent sound
- ⊕ USB charging port
- ⊖ Expensive

VERDICT

★★★★★

"It's not cheap, but the inAir 5000 certainly delivers where it matters, and that's sound quality."

>>E-INK EBOOK READER

Bookeen Cybook Odyssey

£129 Can Bookeen gatecrash the Kindle Touch's UK launch party?

KEY INFO

Manufacturer: Bookeen
http://bookeen.com

SPECIFICATIONS

Connectivity: Wi-Fi, Micro-USB, headphone jack **Battery:** 1 month
Formats: ePub, PDF, HTML, TXT, FB2

PROS & CONS

- ⊕ Elegant, compact design
- ⊕ Neat library navigation
- ⊖ Lacks English ebook store
- ⊖ Poor web experience

VERDICT

★★★★★

"An elegant ereader let down by a lack of English ebooks in its online store."

The UK's ebook reader market has finally caught up with the US, with the launch of the Kindle Touch pitting it against the two big hitters, the Sony Reader and Kobo Touch. Now French company Bookeen has thrown its own Homeric contender into the ring: the epically named Cybook Odyssey.

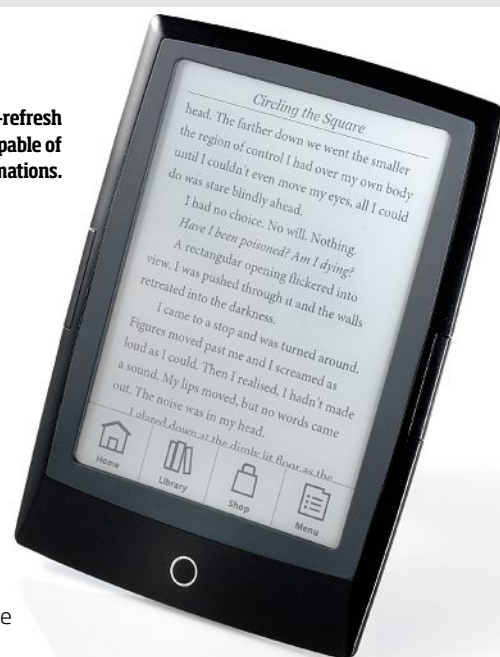
First impressions are positive. Its brushed metal back plate, bevelled corners and grippy part-rubber fascia make the Odyssey easily the most elegant reader on the market. The standard 6-inch Pearl e-ink screen has also received a refresh speed boost, making it fast enough to pull off simple animations. A micro USB cable charges the device and enables drag-and-drop file transfers via the

Finder. Even so, you're unlikely to fill it with reading material anytime soon: its 2GB capacity is further expandable thanks to a microSD slot (although its headphone jack means you could always fill it with MP3s).

Smooth and rapid page-turns are a button-push or screen-swipe away, and in an ereader first, a tablet-inspired accelerometer detects handheld orientation. Apart from a tiny home button, the overall hardware package is impressive.

While Wi-Fi access offers you a frankly ghastly portal to a now media-rich web, it's Bookeen's Franco-centric ebook store that truly disappoints. At the time of writing, there were no English reads available to purchase.

The Odyssey's quick-refresh e-ink screen is capable of simple animations.



Of course, there's nothing to stop you buying ebooks from other stores and transferring them manually from your Mac. But it's a needless inconvenience given the instant accessibility of the Kindle Store, and a letdown in a market where, ultimately, content is king.

Tim Hardwick

>>NETWORK ATTACHED STORAGE

WD My Book Live Duo 4TB

£296 Can this network drive bring NAS storage to the masses?

KEY INFO

Manufacturer: Western Digital
www.wdc.com

SPECIFICATIONS

Interface: 10/100/1000Mb/s Ethernet **Weight:** 2.15kg
Dimensions: 16.5x15.7x9.9cm

PROS & CONS

- ⊕ Comprehensive feature set
- ⊕ Easy to set up
- ⊕ Large storage capacity
- ⊖ Could be more intuitive

VERDICT

★★★★★

"An excellent home NAS drive, but a little interface polish would be welcome."

Network attached storage (NAS) drives used to require the skills of network

administrators to get them up and running. Thankfully, those dark days are behind us. NAS drives such as Western Digital's My Book Live Duo still take a little getting used to, but can be set up with no advanced networking knowledge required.

My Book Live Duo is ideal for media streaming. It's UPnP, and can stream to any DLNA-compliant device such as a games console, TV or media player. Our smart TV picked it up without difficulty. You can also access your media through iOS or Android mobile devices using downloadable apps. It's easy to do, and puts your media right in your hand. There's an iTunes server

My Book Live Duo is compact and attractive.

for music streaming, but due to changes in the way iTunes works, it can't stream movies to recent versions. After signing up for a WD 2go account, you can access your files over the internet. The drive's two 2TB drives are pre-configured as a spanned volume, but you can reformat in a mirrored array if you wish, halving the storage space but protecting your data against drive failure. It's Time Machine and FTP compatible too.

Managing the drive through its browser interface is reasonably straightforward, but one or two features could be more intuitive.



Creating volumes to share with other users is a little cumbersome, especially if you want to give them internet access, and it can be a little sluggish at times. Even so, it strikes a good overall balance between ease of use and flexibility of features.

Ian Osborne



The number of controls on the G1 X might put off novice users, but they enable quick settings adjustments.

» DIGITAL COMPACT CAMERA

Canon PowerShot G1 X

£699 Canon's new flagship compact camera offers lots of control and similar image quality to an SLR

Although it's a compact camera, the G1 X is a bit more exciting than most because at 18.7x14mm its 14.3MP CMOS sensor is only a fraction smaller than the average SLR's. Also, its pixels are the same size and design as those on the Canon 600D's sensor. This immediately puts the G1 X ahead of the game and makes it capable of producing high-quality images.

The latest generation Digic 5 image processor drives the camera's performance, while the Canon 4x optical zoom lens (28-112mm equivalent) with image stabilisation (IS) incorporates a new design using Ultra High Refractive Index Aspherical (UA) elements for superior image quality. The tech is impressive: a 3-inch, 920,000-dot,

articulated LCD; built-in flash; optical viewfinder; full manual control as well as automated shooting modes; a great ISO sensitivity range that tops out at ISO 12800; 1080p movie recording at 24fps; and the ability to shoot raw and JPEG files.

Naturally, the G1 X is a bit larger than the popular PowerShot G12, which sits beneath it in Canon's line-up, but not by as much as you might think. However, it can be squeezed into a coat pocket if the need arises. The G1 X's stainless steel chassis

"One glance at the array of buttons and dials confirms that this is a camera aimed at serious photographers"

gives it a robust feel and one glance at the extensive array of buttons and control dials is enough to confirm that this is a camera aimed at serious photographers who need a smaller alternative to an SLR. As these users would expect, Program, Shutter Priority, Aperture Priority and Manual exposure modes are available and are selected via the exposure mode dial, which also has automated options for the less experienced user.

Thanks to the large sensor and Canon's excellent metering and white balance systems, image quality from the G1 X is high. Plenty of detail is captured in both the raw and JPEG files. Noise is controlled well up to ISO 12,800 and dynamic range is excellent up to ISO 3200, beyond which it drops quite dramatically. **Angela Nicholson**

KEY INFO

Manufacturer: Canon
www.canon.co.uk

SPECIFICATIONS

Lens: 28-112mm (35mm equivalent) f/2.8-5.8 **File formats:** Raw, JPEG, MOV **Memory cards:** SD/SDHC/SDXC **Weight:** 535g

PROS & CONS

- ⊕ Lots of control and auto options
- ⊕ Excellent image quality
- ⊕ Variangle LCD & usable viewfinder
- ⊖ Bulky for a compact camera

VERDICT

★★★★★

"It's pricey, but the G1 X impresses on many fronts, with excellent handling and superb image quality."

Words: Ian Osborne



>>IPAD MOUNTER

Vogel Flex Mount£60 www.vogels.com

01 Flex Mount is the latest addition to Vogel's RingO family of iPad universal tablet mounting systems. It screws securely to a wall, and with your iPad encased in a RingO iPad holder (not supplied), you can fit it to the Flex Mount in portrait or landscape mode. Its folding arm and adjustable mounting allows you to position it at almost any angle. Vogel Flex Mount is sturdy and secure, and does a great job of wall-mounting your iPad, though we wish the adjustable arm was a few links longer. Make sure you have a RingO iPad holder too.

VERDICT

★★★★★

"A sturdy and flexible wall mount for your iPad, with excellent build quality."

>>PEN/IPAD STYLUS

Just Mobile AluPen Pro£39 www.xtand.net

02 Just Mobile's popular AluPen has now been joined by this Pro version, which includes a pen as well as an iOS stylus. Boasting the same hexagonal aluminium build as its predecessor, one end of the AluPen Pro is topped with a rubber nib for capacitive screens, the other, a twist-to-open ballpoint pen. A spare stylus tip is included, and the pen can be refilled. You also get a leather slipcase for storage. Not everyone will see the need for an iOS-device stylus, but for those that do, AluPen Pro is one of the best.

VERDICT

★★★★★

"If you want an iOS stylus and pen, we doubt you'll find one better than this."

>>CHARGING PLUG

Griffin PowerBlock£18 griffintechology.com

03 Three-pin USB adapters that plug into the mains aren't exactly thin on the ground, but this one's got a bonus feature. It has a through-port, so you can keep it permanently plugged in without losing a wall socket. It's ideal for train trips when both you and the person next to you need to charge your mobiles. Just plug it in, and your fellow traveller can plug his or her own charger into the PowerBlock Plus. A 30-pin USB cable is included, and it supplies 2.1A of power, so it can fast-charge an iPad. Sturdily built and nicely priced, it's a real boon.

VERDICT

★★★★★

"A superb, convenient wall charger for iPods and iOS device users on the go."

>>SCREEN PROTECTOR

ZAGG screen SHIELD£13 www.zagg.com

04 If you're going to put a protective screen cover on your iPhone 4 or 4S, you might as well make it a good one. ZAGG's invisibleSHIELD isn't the cheapest, but it's one of the best. It's made from the same tough, clear film used to protect the blades of American military helicopters, so it's more than capable of keeping your iPhone screen safe from keys and coins. invisibleSHIELD is extremely tear resistant, and almost invisible when in place. It comes with an application solution and cleaning cloth to fit it into place without getting fingerprints on the film.

VERDICT

★★★★★

"If you want an iPhone screen protector, ZAGG's sturdy offering is a worthy choice."



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Steve Jobs special issue!
A celebration of the life and work of the man behind the Mac, the iPhone and iPad

Choice highlights
50 magical OS X tricks
Multifunction printer test



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Apple Secrecy unveiled
iPad S.O.S. guide

Choice highlights
Video converter apps test
Infinity Blade 2 rated



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March 2012

Get the best of the Mac App Store
iTunes Match - is it worth £22 a year?

Choice highlights
Get started with iBooks
Author, iDesire supplement



Issue 246
April 2012

Why You'll Love Mountain Lion
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Words: Ian Osborne
Photography: Simon Lees

5 Bluetooth sp

We rate the best Bluetooth speaker system for wireless audio

We love AirPlay, but we have to admit that Bluetooth also has its advantages. It's more widespread and versatile, and as the connection is peer to peer, you don't need to be on a network to use it. Although AirPlay has a longer range, Bluetooth's reach of around 30 feet is sufficient for most home users, but remember that this is likely to be reduced if the signal has to pass through walls. With new technologies such as the aptX codec, the quality of audio streamed through Bluetooth is improving too, and Bluetooth wireless speakers are considerably cheaper than AirPlay models. So here we're looking at five Bluetooth-compatible speaker docks from leading manufacturers.

>> LOTS OF DRIVERS

Logitech Wireless Boombox

£118 www.logitech.com/UK

01 Six front-facing drivers and two on the back for extra bass give Logitech's Wireless Boombox a very complete sound. Streaming MP3s over Bluetooth inevitably sacrifices reproduction for convenience, but the overall audio quality here is extremely good, with impressive detail apparent throughout the sound spectrum. Reproducing a three-dimensional sound stage is always

tricky using a Bluetooth system, but Wireless Boombox has an impressive breadth.

With a grilled front showing off its numerous drivers and undisguised physical buttons, its appearance is uncompromisingly techie. Its six-hour rechargeable battery means it's portable too.

VERDICT

★★★★★

>> DONGLE-ASSISTED QUALITY

Creative ZiiSound D5

£192 <http://uk.creative.com>

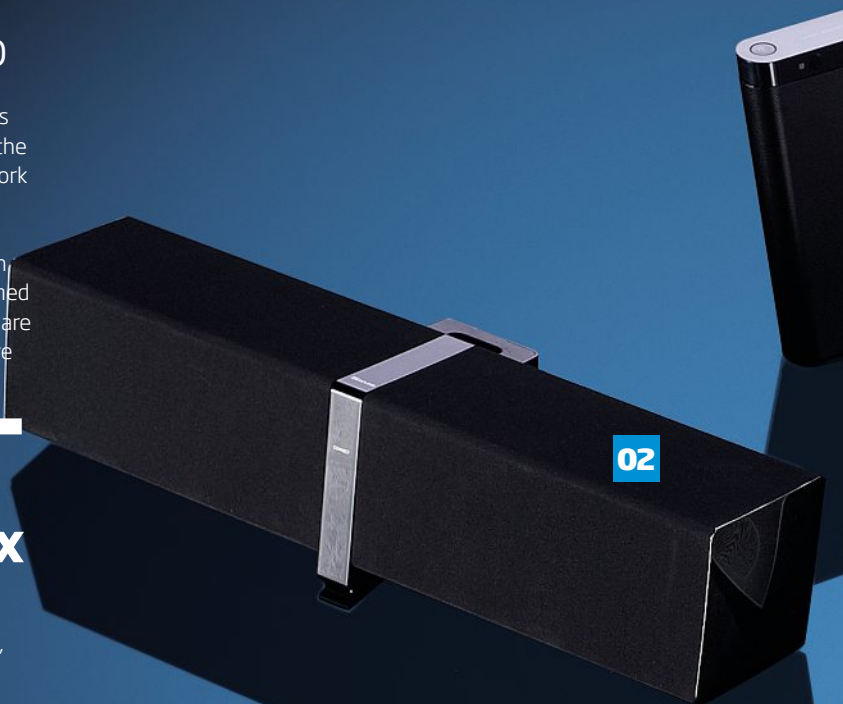
02 The ZiiSound D5 uses the powerful new aptX Bluetooth codec, which allows compatible Bluetooth devices to stream CD-quality audio. Unlike the Mac, iOS devices don't yet use aptX, but a supplied 30-pin dongle gives them this feature. A connected dongle can also be slotted into the speaker unit itself, giving an effective 30-pin charging dock, and it can also be used with

iPods that have no native Bluetooth support at all.

Audio quality is excellent. Vocals are reproduced with impressive clarity, and the sound as a whole is complete and well integrated. Maybe the bass could be a touch tighter and the treble a little less tinny, but these are minor quibbles.

VERDICT

★★★★★



eaker docks



>> DOCKED OR WIRELESS

Sony RDP-X60iP

£100 www.sony.co.uk

03 Sony's unimaginatively named RDP-X60iP Speaker Dock offers good detail and clarity, but it lacks depth and warmth. Although far from poor, the sound simply isn't as intense as the best speakers tested here.

As well as Bluetooth streaming, the X60iP has a 30-pin dock with adapters for iPhones (but none for iPods), and a bass booster they dub

MEGA BASS. This feature is certainly welcome, as the audio's bottom end is very weak without it. Sound quality is better with your device in the dock than when streaming, but it's hardly breathtaking. Its traditional speaker dock design looks a little dated too.

VERDICT

★★★★★



>> ANGULAR AND STYLISH

Altec Lansing IMW725

£121 www.alteclansing.com

04 The inMotion Air has a seven-hour rechargeable battery and carry handle on the rear. There's a useful slot on the back to store the hand controller when not in use, and it features Altec Lansing's famous Expanded Sound Stage (ESS) technology that makes your speakers sound further apart than they are. Audio quality is a mixed bag. When streaming

from an iOS device it's merely average; bass is lively if a little loose and flabby. The treble is clear and well realised, though the vocals are slightly foggy, and the sound as a whole a little bitty and incomplete. Fortunately though, the speakers are aptX-compatible.

VERDICT

★★★★★



>> PORTABLE CONVENIENCE

Soundfreaq SFQ-02IRB

£130 www.soundfreaq.com

05 The Soundfreaq is pleasingly petite and portable, with a six-hour rechargeable battery and a caddy on the bottom for the remote. Its 30-pin dock connector is wide enough to fit iPads as well as smaller Apple audio devices. A USB charging device keeps compatible products topped up, and it also has a composite video-out port and a

free iOS controller app. Audio quality is average however. A feature called UQ3 (U-Cubed) makes the sound broader and better shaped, but it lacks the warmth and life of some of the other models. It's not the most stylish of Bluetooth docks either.

VERDICT

★★★★★

>> ACTION RPG

Deus Ex: Human Revolution Ultimate Edition



£34.99 Fancy having all your physical functions enhanced by cybernetic implants?

KEY INFO

Developer: Feral Interactive
www.feralinteractive.com

REQUIREMENTS

OS: OS X 10.7.3 **Processor:** 2GHz

RAM: 4GB **Disk space:** 20GB

Video: 256MB **Other:** Keyboard and multi-button mouse (Gamepad recommended)

PROS & CONS

- ⊕ Gorgeous sci-fi environments
- ⊕ Fascinating storyline
- ⊕ RPG elements
- ⊕ Superb stealth/combat
- ⊕ Includes all DLC
- ⊖ Poorly integrated Boss fights

VERDICT

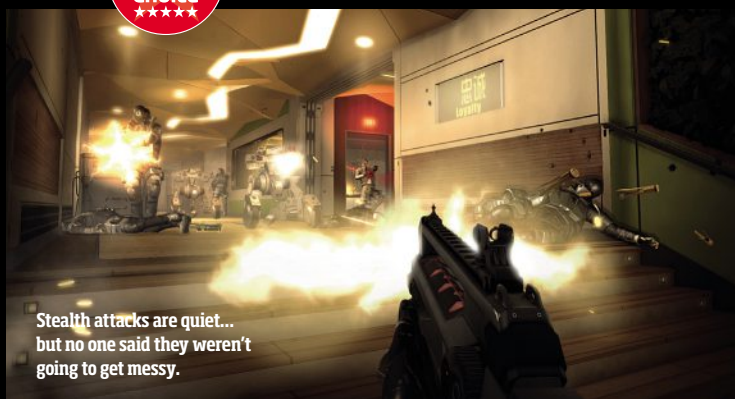
★★★★★

"A dark blend of superb storytelling, expansive role-playing elements, stealth and combat. Utterly gripping."

The year is 2027 and a battle is raging between scientists – who are largely in favour of new developments in human augmentation – and members of the anti-augmentation terrorist group Purity First.

The playable prelude to the game shows us how Adam Jensen, a security specialist at Sarif Industries, is viciously assaulted during an attack on the laboratory and only escapes death by being revived and heavily augmented. Six months later he's back in his old job and once again trying to prevent attacks against Sarif Industries, but during one such attack, we begin to see that all is not quite as it seems.

What looks like a first-person shooter is actually a much smarter, more complex game. Indeed, *Deus Ex*'s balance of role-playing, exploration, action and stealth is superbly handled. Once the game begins to open up, after the linear prologue, you begin to get an insight into the scope of the story and your



Stealth attacks are quiet... but no one said they weren't going to get messy.

place within it. You can chat to almost anyone, and many characters have useful information; others will provide you with missions that drive the main story or ask you to run

to buy augmentations, a bewildering array of cybernetic enhancements that improve your physical attributes, combat, stealth, and ability to hack into systems.

"What looks like a first-person shooter is actually a much smarter game – a balance of role-playing, exploration, action and stealth"

errands or side quests through which you can discover interesting story arcs and gain experience, which is crucial to success.

As you get more experience and earn Praxis Points, you can use them

There's plenty of action to be had, although it's pretty much up to the player what flavour it takes. It's perfectly possible to enter a facility and achieve your aims stealthily, taking out enemies with silent kills and so on. But equally, if you want to kick the door down and let your weapons do the talking, you can.

The lack of ammo is the game's only serious flaw insofar as a cautious approach has to be adopted, which can be a little stifling. The option to let off steam with a no-holds-barred killing spree would have been welcome. But that would perhaps destroy the delicate balance of things. This is a tense game, with an ever-present sense of danger, and an atmosphere in which the careful, considered gameplay fits perfectly. This Ultimate Edition contains the base game, all previously released downloadable content and bonus material, making the Mac the *Deus Ex* fan's new platform of choice.

Andy Dyer



There's no need to go all-out guns blazing. Talk to people. You never know what you might learn.

>>PLATFORM PUZZLER

Rochard



£7.99 The tale of a humble miner faced with redundancy. It's like the 80s all over again... sort of

And here it is at last – a game hero with a fat gut for middle-aged men to identify with. John Rochard is an Astro Miner, who – you guessed it – mines asteroids for a living. He's trying to dig out a valuable mineral with a ridiculous name, but the sad truth is Rochard's crew hasn't found anything of value for quite some years. But, just as his bosses are about to shut down his operation, he discovers an alien object. However, as soon as he does, things go a bit pear-shaped in general and he finds himself stranded on the asteroid. And then there's the group of individuals who seem hellbent on preventing him from discovering what's going on.

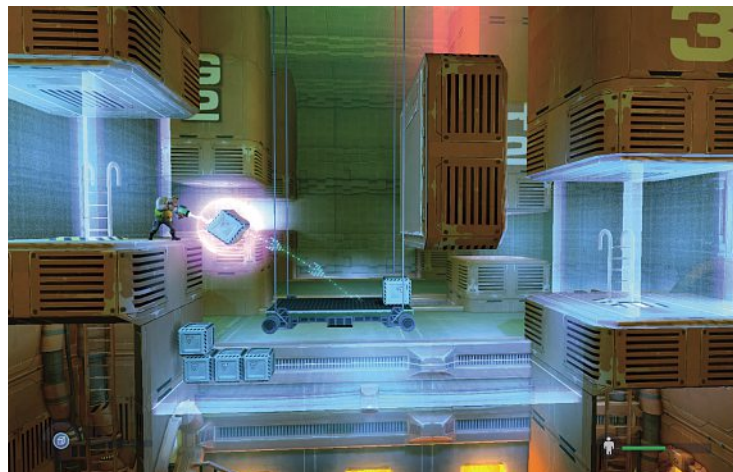
What's pleasantly surprising about *Rochard*, apart from the excellent platform-puzzling gameplay that we'll come to shortly, is the amount of time and effort that's been lavished on the storyline, the characters and the great soundtrack.

The plot and dialogue are interesting and wittily written. The

"What's pleasantly surprising about Rochard, apart from the excellent gameplay, is the time that's been lavished on the storyline"

characters are well-rounded (quite literally, in the case of Rochard's beer belly) and the whole thing plays out over a thumpingly good blues soundtrack. It even comes complete with a fantastic blues number during the game's opening sequence, which is sung by John Rochard himself (who, incidentally, is voiced by none other than Jon St John, the voice of *Duke Nukem* no less). This is a surprisingly confident and lavish production, considering it was a game that first appeared as a download on the PlayStation Network.

It looks the part too. Despite being a side-on platformer, the levels are modelled in 3D and nicely rendered. The result is a game whose levels



Why not chuck a bunch of crates at your enemies to take them out? Your G-Lifter is a useful tool.

remain clear and playable when it matters. It also segues seamlessly into a 3D perspective in order to introduce important developments such as new enemies or a salient plot point. The illustrative style is a sort of combination of traditional cartoon and CG animation (think Spielberg's recent *Tintin* movie).

The gameplay more than lives up to the production values. Rochard,

John can also use the G-Lifter to fling heavy objects at them.

Progress is also complicated by the presence of blue and red force-fields, the former of which only allows living matter (Rochard) through, and the latter of which can only be penetrated by inanimate objects. This leads to some extremely convoluted but satisfying puzzles in which Rochard has to utilise the G-Lifter, crates and himself in a variety of ways to reach a satisfactory conclusion.

The palette of puzzle elements is admittedly limited, but it's used with skill to create an array of challenging situations. This, coupled with the game's strong sense of humour and other theatrics, make it an experience not to be missed.

Andy Dyer



KEY INFO

Developer: Recoil Games
www.steampowered.com

REQUIREMENTS

OS: OS X 10.6.6 or later
Processor: 2.6GHz single core
RAM: 1GB **Disk space:** 3GB

PROS & CONS

- + Great story
- + Great lead character
- + Superb soundtrack
- + Witty dialogue
- + Clever level design
- + Interesting physics puzzles

VERDICT

★★★★★

"A winning blend of physics puzzles, great storytelling and an incongruous yet brilliant blues soundtrack."

You can pass through blue force fields, but crates cannot. Time to build some stepping stones.

>> PLATFORM GAME

Bumpy Road

£1.99 A Sunday drive out with pensioners?

KEY INFO

Developer: Feral Interactive
www.simogo.com

REQUIREMENTS

OS: OS X 10.6.6

Disk space: 22.5MB

PROS & CONS

- ⊕ Visually enchanting
- ⊕ Unique control method
- ⊕ Addictive gameplay
- ⊕ Lots of collectibles
- ⊕ Multiple play modes
- ⊖ A bit repetitive

VERDICT

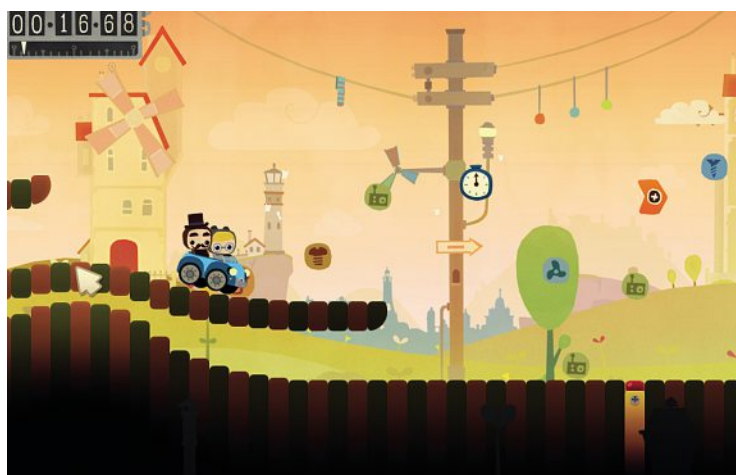
★★★★★

"A sweet game whose simple premise is surprisingly more-ish."

Big budget games are very slick and graphically sophisticated, but the real visual creativity is coming from independent developers crafting small, unique titles that capture the eye as well as the imagination. *Bumpy Road* is one such example.

The game uses a beautiful illustrative style that wouldn't look out of place in a children's storybook, but while the gameplay is casual and suitable for young players, it also poses a significant challenge for more seasoned gamers.

The simple premise is that an old couple are out for a pleasant drive in their car in a bid to reminisce and collect old memories. You help them do this by pointing your mouse cursor at the road beneath them. The point selected then rises up. Depending on



Raise the road beneath the car to bump it up onto platforms and get all nostalgic while you're at it.

where you point in relation to the car, you can make it travel left or right or even cause it to jump up in the air. In doing so you can collect the various bonuses and memories scattered around, gather speed-ups, jump onto platforms and hopefully avoid the various hazards.

There's no real end to it, you just have to get as far as you can, collecting as many objects and points

as possible along the way. A couple of play modes offer slight variations – travel an endless road, or try to reach a goal as quickly as possible – but this is incentive enough as you dive back in to better your achievements and unlock some more of those memories.

It's a beautiful, relaxing, gently challenging game that leaves you with a warm feeling inside.

Andy Dyer

>> REAL-TIME STRATEGY

Oil Rush

£13 Protect the world's ocean oil supplies

KEY INFO

Developer: Unigine Corp
www.oilrush-game.com

REQUIREMENTS

OS: OS X 10.7 **Processor:** 2GHz

Intel Core 2 Duo RAM: 1GB **Disk**

space: 3GB **Video:** Most supported

PROS & CONS

- ⊕ Incredible visuals
- ⊕ Loads of action
- ⊕ Satisfying gameplay
- ⊕ Easy to pick up
- ⊖ Multiplayer is a bit quiet
- ⊖ Not enormously deep

VERDICT

★★★★★

"The gameplay is refreshing and the ocean setting simply stunning."

Oil Rush's decidedly uninspiring packaging – complete with dull, muted artwork and the frankly weedy tag line 'naval strategy game' – does absolutely no favours for what turns out to be a fairly innovative, exciting and visually fantastic strategy game.

Government forces and rebel groups are battling it out on the waves in order to retain control of scarce oil resources. Playing the part of a newly graduated fleet officer, you are asked by The Commander to embark on a series of missions to prevent rebels from taking control of the army's oil rigs.

The first thing to mention is the look of the game. Even without a top-end graphics card you can whack the settings up to max and the results are nothing short of astonishing. Zoom in



The seascapes, complete with settlements and units, are beautifully modelled in real-time.

on the various rigs and settlements and you will find extraordinary attention to detail. Fortunately this eye candy hasn't come at the cost of good gameplay. *Oil Rush* is not the cost complex strategy game, but there are hidden depths and what it does it does extremely well. You must maintain platforms, upgrading them and adding weapons in order to fend off attackers in a sort of tower defence style. You must also

command a fleet, assigning targets, splitting them down to embark on multiple strategies and basically managing the business of ruling the ocean and her resources.

It's fast paced and you get to witness all the action first hand. If the multiplayer servers are a little empty, you can choose AI opponents instead. It's not perfect, but it's still an exciting example of strategy done differently.

Andy Dyer

Freeway: Web design without the wizardry



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World of Apps

Reviews by: Graham Barlow, Tim Hardwick, Laurence Cable, Andy Dyer

> iPad > iPhone > iPod Touch

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Whether you've got an iPhone, iPod touch or an iPad, this is the best place to come to discover great new iOS apps and get the latest tips!

Mac
FORMAT

App of the
month
★★★★★

Brian Cox's Wonders of the universe



Graham recommends:

"Professor Brian Cox's star is definitely in the ascendency and here he brings his enthusiasm for science and the universe to the iPad. There are two-and-a-half hours of video from the BBC series on hand, but you'll need a Wi-Fi connection to view it."

Price: £4.99 Version: 1.11 Works with: iPad



Must-have apps

Try these apps to have even more fun with your iOS device!

Draw Someting

£1.49 The latest internet craze

Developer: OMGPOP Works with: iPad, iPhone



Who would have thought that social drawing would become the latest internet craze? The game involves challenging your friends to guess what you've drawn and it integrates with Facebook, so it's easy to connect with people. This paid-for version is ad-free, but there's also an ad-supported free version.

viddy

Free It's like Instagram for video!

Developer: Viddy, Inc Works with: iPhone



Apps like *Instagram* make it easy to add retro effects to your photos and share them online. *Viddy* does the same thing for video. Take some footage on your iPhone, add a cool effect and you can share it to Twitter, Facebook, YouTube or Tumblr right from the app. We predict big things for this app!

Art Guide

Free Find great art around you

Developer: The Art Fund Works with: iPhone, iPad, iPod



If you're passionate about art then you'll love this app. It's great for when you go on holiday since you can just tap the Nearby icon to reveal a map showing all your local art exhibits. Museums and National Trust sites are shown too, so you won't miss out on any great sights in your area.

- ▶ The latest essential apps and games
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»» EMAIL CLIENT

Sparrow

£1.99 A much slicker way to view your inbox

Developer: Sparrow SARL **Version:** 1.0.1 **Works with:** iPhone, iPod touch



Sparrow is an iPhone email client that is designed to use any IMAP account, including Gmail and iCloud. It's slick and packed with useful features such as its attachment options, and its use of swipe gestures to mark messages or conversations as read. Conveniently, you can tap

at the top of an email to have it sent from a different account. This makes ploughing through emails a much more joyful experience. However, it currently lacks push mail and notification support.

VERDICT

★★★★★

"Brilliant - if you can live without push notifications."

»» CAMERA APP

Camera Awesome

Free Yes, it pretty much is, but with an IAP-shaped catch

Developer: Smugmug **Version:** 1.0.2 **Works with:** iPhone



This comes with the improved shooting tools you'd expect from a third-party app and some extras, too: a gyro overlay to help keep your image stable, the ability to separate your focal point to focus and exposure crosshairs, and a Pre-record option that gives you a longer window to

start recording if something cool happens. The Awesomizer tool is the only real editor, handling all the auto-fix essentials. However you have to pay In-App for more filters beyond the few supplied.

VERDICT

★★★★★

"Slightly grabby with the IAP, but a great free photo app."

»» TEXT EDITOR

Byword

£1.99 Trying to bring style to your plain-text documents

Developer: Metaclassy **Version:** 1.0 **Works with:** iPhone, iPod touch, iPad



Byword's job as a minimalist text editor is to give you a blank piece of paper to write on and let you save the document to your device, or sync them to Dropbox or iCloud. It does this, but the devil is in the details, and this is its downfall. Its grey-on-white interface makes you squint, and

there are only four choices of fonts. You can style your text as bold or italic without HTML, but to view your document as formatted, you have to switch to a print-preview style view.

VERDICT

★★★★★

"Some useful features, but it's got a long way to go to beat iA Writer."

»» SOCIAL PHOTO APP

Leap

Free Challenge friends to photo competitions, get bored

Developer: RYAN Tinker **Version:** 1.0.3 **Works with:** iPhone, iPod touch



Leap is a kind of competitive Instagram - you quickly snap and share photos, but they're uploaded to 'challenges' set up by you or your friends. There are no filters when you upload; this isn't much of an artistic app, it's all about the competition. Each photo gets you

a point in the challenge, which can range from 'first to x points', or for a set amount of days. Photos can be posted to Facebook/Twitter, but unfortunately the competition aspect just isn't compelling enough.

VERDICT

★★★★★

"A decent app, but not one we'll be addicted to years from now."

Apps round-up



Tim's guide to sleepy apps now available on iTunes store:

Scientists still can't say for sure why us mammals need sleep - surprising, you might think, given that it takes up a third of our lives! Of course the mystery of it all hasn't stopped a raft of sleep-related apps from appearing on the iTunes Store; here's the pick of the bunch...

Pzizz Sleep (£3.99, Pzizz)

claims to induce sleep by exposing your ears to a variable combination of meditative soundscapes, soothing voices and binaural beats. Just select a duration and volume, customise your track, and with a little luck you'll be in dreamland in no time.

Speaking of dreams, ever fancied directing your own? That's what **Dream:ON (Free, Skan Ventures)** reckons it can help you achieve. Leave your phone on your mattress and it monitors your body for

periods of stillness, when you're likely to be in the REM (random-eye movement) sleep phase. At this point it feeds pleasant ambient sounds into your brain to manipulate the course of those closed-eye reveries - or so say the scientists behind it.

If you find waking up in the morning a struggle, take a look at **Sleep Cycle (69p, Maciek Drejak Labs)**. This alarm clock app analyses sleep patterns and aims to wake you during your lightest sleep phase, enabling you to face the dawn feeling less groggy and more refreshed. It also saves your sleep statistics and displays them in an easy-to-grasp graph. Perfect if you're not a morning person!



Master the Music app

Listen to music, podcasts and audiobooks on iOS devices

» KEY INFO

DIFFICULTY
Beginner

TIME NEEDED
15 minutes

WHAT YOU'LL NEED
iPhone, iPod touch, iOS 5

With an iPhone or iPod touch you've got a brilliant portable audio player, catering for music, as well as podcasts and audiobooks. We're going to explore the *Music* app, which is where you control your music. Before iOS 5 came out, the iPhone's music was controlled using the *iPod* app, so if you can't find

Music, simply look for the orange iPod icon.

You add audio to your iPhone or iPod touch via *iTunes*, either by syncing certain playlists, artists or genres, or by manually dragging songs to it. You can also download audio direct to your device, via the *iTunes* app. With some audio ready to go, tap the *Music* app to start.



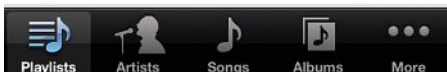
» HOW TO / Make the most of the Music app

Just Go Ahead Now - A Re... >

Killer Love >

One Of The Boys >

Original Me >



Peaceful Easy Feeling

The Very Best of Eagles (Remastered) - Eagles

Desperado

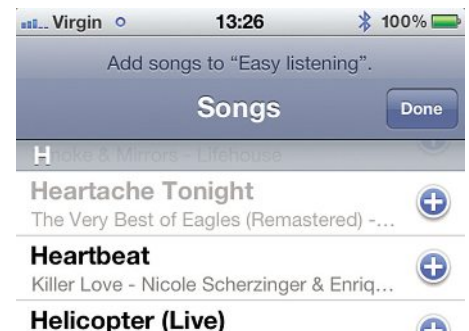
The Very Best of Eagles (Remastered) - Eagles

Tequila Sunrise

The Very Best of Eagles (Remastered) - Eagles

Doolin-Dalton

The Very Best of Eagles (Remastered) - Eagles



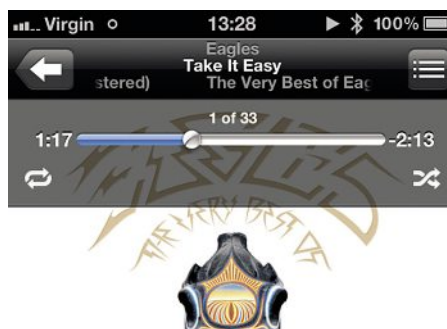
01 Ways to browse

Across the bottom of the *Music* app is a black button bar that enables you to browse your audio by Playlist, Artist, Song, Album or More. If you don't see the bar, tap the left arrow in the top-left to bring it into view. These buttons offer different ways to find tracks.



02 Your playlists

Any playlists you've selected to sync from *iTunes* on your Mac appear when you tap **Playlists**. Note the **Add Playlist...** button at the top - we'll come back to this shortly. Tap any playlist name to see the tracks in it, then tap any one of them to start listening.



03 Create your own

To return to your list of playlists, tap the left-pointing **Playlists** button in the top left. Now tap **App Playlist...** Type in a name for it, then tap **Save**. Next, tap the songs you'd like to add, using the search bar at the top if necessary. Tap **Done** when you're ready.



04 Edit your playlist

Delete removes the playlist, **Clear** empties all tracks from it, and **Edit** enables you to remove or reorder items. Tap **Edit**, then use the three-line handles to drag things up and down. To remove a track, tap the red circle, then tap **Delete**. Tap **Done** when you're finished.

05 Player controls

When you've tapped a track to play it, the album artwork appears, with familiar controls and a **Volume** slider at the bottom. At the top, you'll see a progress bar, **Repeat** and **Shuffle** buttons, and a button that brings up the playlist's contents in the top-right.

06 Controlling your music

When audio is playing, a **Play** symbol appears in the iPhone or iPod touch's top bar. Access the audio controls by double-tapping the Home button and swiping from left to right. You can use the volume buttons on the side of your device to turn things up or down. ●

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>>SHOOT-'EM-UP

Skylanders Cloud Patrol

69p Spyro the Dragon aims to rid the world of pesky trolls

KEY INFO

Developer: Activision

Version: 1.1.0

Works with: (Universal)

iPhone, iPod touch, iPad, iOS 4.3 or later

PROS & CONS

- ⊕ Looks great
- ⊕ Plays great
- ⊕ Loads of play incentives
- ⊖ A bit shallow

VERDICT

★★★★★

"Appealing in its simplicity and slick in its approach."



The console versions of *Skylanders* were notable for the fact that they came with a peripheral. This was called a 'portal', upon which players could place one of 30 *Skylanders* action figures they could purchase at stores and then watch that character magically appear in the game.

Such a tricky device would be impractical on the iOS platform, so what we have here is a stripped-down game with a simple premise whose only real goal is to unlock goodies through repeated play. The idea is to take your *Skylander*, hop into a gunship and take down the oncoming hordes of escaped trolls. It's a light-gun style game, essentially, that tests your reaction times and ability to discern good targets from bad. As well as simply

The hideout levels are a bewildering blur of trolls and mines. Careful shooting required.

tapping trolls to shoot them individually you can also trace a line across several of them for a combo

attack. Care has to be taken as each screen also contains floating mines that, if hit, will end your game instantly.

To break up potential monotony, the levels are subtly different each time you play, there are special Hideout levels (sort of like boss encounters), and occasionally you'll hit a bonus challenge in which you have to kill sheep (?). The better you perform, and



the further you get, the more money and gems you will accrue and the more stuff you can unlock, chiefly the 30 *Skylanders* characters themselves.

It's repetitive, and lacks depth, but *Cloud Patrol* is executed with considerable style and is very good fun in an entirely casual way. It should prove massively appealing to its young target audience and their parents.

>>PLATFORMER

774 Deaths

£2.49 There's plenty of life in morbidity



KEY INFO

Developer: SQUARE ENIX

Version: 1.0.0

Works with: iPhone 3GS or better, iPod touch 3rd Gen or better, iPad, iOS 4.3 or later

PROS & CONS

- ⊕ Lovely retro feel
- ⊕ Excruciatingly difficult
- ⊕ Clever level design
- ⊖ It might make you cry

VERDICT

★★★★★

"Fancy a fiendishly compelling challenge? Then step this way."

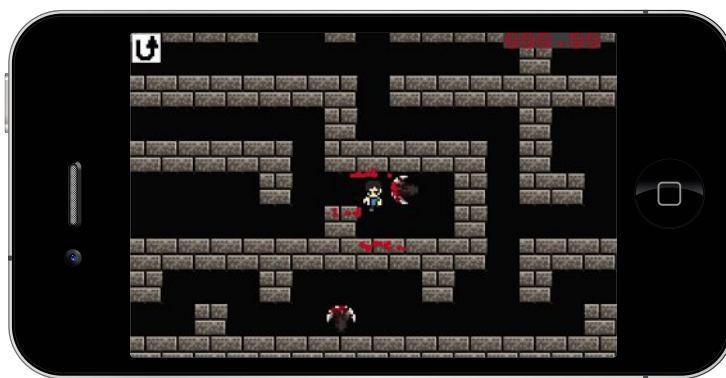


Rarely do you find a game that's hugely frustrating and yet you are compelled to keep playing it. *774 Deaths*

has all the hallmarks of a classic old 8-bit platformer, but with the difficulty turned up to 11 and possibly beyond.

Playing the game is a simple process. You move left, or right, and you jump. Each level is made up of a series of platforms - collapsing, moving or fixed - and you have to get from the start to the finish. Various hazards stand in your way, mostly in the form of hideous axe blades that your character invariably comes to a messy end on.

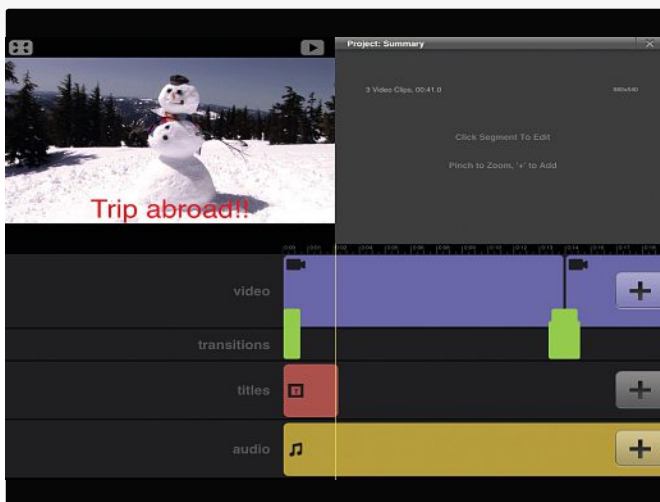
But the real difficulty comes from the nature of the gameplay. As was often the case with old 8-bit sprite



Just one of the many, many... MANY deaths you'll experience in this sadistically brilliant game.

based games, negotiating obstacles requires pixel-perfect accuracy. So mastering a level is a case of gradually, though trial and error, learning exactly how and when to execute each jump. You'll also have to memorise where dangers lurk so that eventually you can reach the exit unscathed. For variety there are also levels viewed in portrait mode in which you use motion controls to avoid surrounding hazards, which alters the pace of things quite nicely.

The twist is that where normally you would have three lives, here you can just keep going. This is the mechanism that allows the game's developer to ramp the difficulty up so high. Each level is incredibly well thought-out. Every pitfall has been placed with a specific purpose and while it might take a long while and a lot of deaths to reach the exit, the feeling of triumph when you do so is enormous. Never has such pain been such a pleasure!



Edit your own arthouse movie and upload it to Vimeo to share with others.

>>VIDEO SHARING

Vimeo

Free Will this update make it your one-stop video shop?

Developer: Vimeo **Version:** 2.0.1 **Works with:** iPhone, iPod touch, iPad



Vimeo is a video-sharing service that caters more to the artistic side of video-making.

You can shoot video, edit a movie and upload to Vimeo at an impressive 1080p straight from the app, and even track the stats of your videos. The editing is quite utilitarian, though. You can add music to your movies from Vimeo's store for free, but with some

problems – once we selected a song, we couldn't get it to stop playing, and the interface is tough to navigate through. However, our only complaint with its video playback is that its focus on curation can mean that hidden gems stay hidden.

VERDICT

★★★★★

"Great video quality, but the new features need polish."

>>VEHICLE REGISTER

GloveBox

69p Store all your vital motoring info in a single app

Developer: Toby Herbert **Version:** 1.1 **Works with:** iPhone, iPod touch



Running a car doesn't have to be stressful with *GloveBox* – it stores all your vehicle's details such as MOT dates, radio code and breakdown cover policy number in one place, so you won't have to go rooting through folders of paperwork when you need to find them. It's a

solution to a problem you didn't know you had, and you'll probably only use it rarely. However, it's simple and elegant to use, and it syncs information between multiple iOS devices.

VERDICT

★★★★★

"Not an app you'll regularly use, But for convenience, it's a cinch."

>>SING-ALONG APP

Little Fox Music Box

£1.99 A delightful app with some beautiful illustrations

Developer: Shape Minds and Moving Images GmbH **Version:** 1.1 **Works with:** iPad and iPhone



Whether you view it on an iPhone or iPad, apps in this space don't get much better looking than this. After choosing a song from the intro screen, you're transported into a one-screen song scene, so there's no panning required. Kids will adore the interactivity within the three

choices of sing-alongs: Old MacDonald, London Bridge and Evening Song. You can also jam with Fox and his friends, with every object making a different noise. A delightful, if terse app.

VERDICT

★★★★★

"Looks and sounds great, but needs a few more songs."

Essential iOS Tips & tricks

A foursome of smart secrets for a happy iOS life



01 Easy backups

Don't forget that you can set your iOS to back up automatically to iCloud, using the 5GB of free storage you get. Just go to Settings > iCloud > Storage & Backup and turn iCloud Backup to On. You can specify which apps get backed up, to save space.



02 Added AirPlay

If you're using an app such as *Netflix*, which doesn't show any AirPlay options in its main video controls, that doesn't necessarily mean it doesn't support AirPlay. Double-click the Home button and swipe to volume controls – you can still select AirPlay targets.



03 News delivery

If you subscribe to publications in *Newsstand*, you can make it so that any new issues are automatically downloaded to your device. Go to Settings > Store and look near the bottom to see your subscriptions, and choose which to automatically download.



04 Easy editing

The iOS 5 update added some editing features to the *Photos* app, so even if you don't want to pay for *iPhoto*, you can still enhance your snaps. Tap Edit in the top-right to be able to auto-enhance your photos, remove red-eye and crop the image to your liking.

AHEAD OF THE CURVE

Get the best apps before your mates with **Tap!**, the world's first true magazine for iPad

New
APP
edition



See kit from all angles, watch games in action
and get the apps you want in seconds!

www.tapmag.co.uk/app

Available on the
App Store

GROUP TEST



[01] Chrome 18
Free www.google.com/chrome

[02] Firefox 11.0
Free www.mozilla.org/firefox

[03] Opera 11.62
Free www.opera.com

Six of the best

Safari comes with every Mac, so we pitched Apple's browser against five popular alternatives



>>> DID YOU KNOW THIS?

You can run multiple browsers on your Mac. If you want a Mac without Flash, you could install Chrome as a backup, because it has the Flash plug-in built-in.

Browsers are hugely important in modern computing. A decade ago, you might have launched one to check the occasional website, twiddling your thumbs as content downloaded painfully slowly over a dial-up modem. Today, most Mac users are on broadband and often rely on the internet for news, entertainment and social tools. Increasingly, work is also moving to the web, with people as likely to use Gmail or Facebook as Apple's Mail, or online office suites like Google Docs rather than Microsoft Office and iWork. Therefore, modern browsers must be robust, fast and dependable.

Regarding the six browsers we chose to test, Safari is the OS X default, Chrome and Firefox battle for second-place globally behind Internet Explorer (the default browser for Windows, not available for Mac) and Opera is a popular alternative. iCab, OmniWeb and Camino didn't make our line-up this time round; iCab hasn't

"Most Mac users are on broadband and often rely on the net for news, social tools and entertainment"

been updated in over a year, and the other two appear to be in maintenance mode for the most part. The last two spots have therefore gone to RockMelt and Sleipnir, which, respectively, focus on social network integration and modern gestural-based controls.

We largely focus on usability for this group test, because features are what tend to set modern browsers apart, not performance. That said, we did subject each browser to technical tests (web standards support, scripting speed, and so on). Objectively, Chrome led, followed by RockMelt, with Firefox and Sleipnir middling and Safari and Opera bringing up the rear. But the regularly updated Chrome and Firefox felt like the snappiest browsers, especially when dealing with demanding content like HTML5 games. >>>



[04] RockMelt 0.16.91
Free www.rockmelt.com

[05] Safari 5.1.5
Free www.apple.com/safari

[06] Sleipnir 3.3.1
Free www.fenrir-inc.com/mac/sleipnir

web browsers

Words: Craig Grannell

>> WEB BROWSERS / At a glance



	Chrome 18.0.1025.163	Firefox 11.0	Opera 11.62	RockMelt 0.16.91	Safari 5.1.5	Sleipnir 3.3.1
Rating	4	4	3.5	3	3.5	2
Requirements	OS X 10.5, Intel	OS X 10.5, Intel	OS X 10.5, Intel	OS X 10.5, Intel, Facebook account	OS X 10.6, Intel	OS X 10.6, Intel
Layout engine	WebKit	Gecko	Presto	WebKit	WebKit	WebKit
Phishing protection	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Extensions	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Private mode	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Keyword shortcuts	Search engines	Bookmarks, search engines	Bookmarks, search engines	Search engines	No	No
Content zooming	Full-page	Full-page or text-only	Full-page	Full-page	Full-page or text-only	Full-page
Crash recovery	Automatic	Manual restore	Automatic with prompt	Automatic	Automatic	Automatic
Mobile	Third-party bookmark sync	First-party bookmark sync	Universal browser with bookmark sync	iPhone browser with bookmark sync	Universal browser with bookmark sync	Universal browser with bookmark sync



Sleipnir might appear sleek and simple but, in reality, it's not terribly usable.

»»TEST ONE

Ease of use

How intuitive and straightforward is the interface?

Despite increasing complexity from new features and the annoying lack of a unified address bar, *Safari* is very usable, with strong OS X integration. *Chrome* bests *Safari* in its unified address bar, is fast and integrates well with OS X; the inflexible start page (installed web apps or eight recent sites) is perhaps a missed opportunity. The previously complex *Firefox* and *Opera* are now pared-down by default and thereby much improved, although *Firefox* doesn't work with keychain or the OS X dictionary, and *Opera's* starting to become a bit cluttered with icons. *Opera's* visual tab

previews and *iPhoto*-style zoom slider are nice touches though.

RockMelt is *Chrome* with additions. The social shortcuts add clutter, which Quiet Mode can banish, but then you might as well use *Chrome*. *Sleipnir* has the façade of ease and nice ideas (zoomable tab previews, gestural controls), but feels unfinished, and lacks a permanent address bar.

»»TEST RESULTS

Chrome	★★★★★
Firefox	★★★★★
Opera	★★★★★
RockMelt	★★★★★
Safari	★★★★★
Sleipnir	★★★★★

»»TEST TWO

Extensibility

Can you personalise the interface or add plug-ins?

Sleipnir offers no plug-ins or extensions, and the interface is very locked down – you get what you get. Elsewhere, *Firefox* remains king of add-ons, with a massive range of extensions, appearance options and plug-ins. In the past, this aspect of *Firefox* was quite impenetrable for newcomers, but the add-ons page is now friendly, well-organised and includes a useful intro video.

The other browsers all end up second-best, but still impress. *Safari's* relatively new to extensions but has plenty of add-ons, as does *Opera*, which also offers a highly configurable

browser interface. *Chrome* has muddied the water a little too much with its web store, which mixes impressive extensions with 'apps' that are often essentially web page links; *RockMelt* builds on *Chrome* with additional *RockMelt* apps – feeds for loading mobile-browser-style sidebars. These can be useful, but it's too easy for *RockMelt* to become a mess.

»»TEST RESULTS

Chrome	★★★★★
Firefox	★★★★★
Opera	★★★★★
RockMelt	★★★★★
Safari	★★★★★
Sleipnir	★★★★★



Firefox remains the best Mac web browser from an add-ons standpoint.

»»HOW WE TESTED / Going mobile: How browsers fare on iOS

The browser landscape on iOS is different to OS X, because Apple only allows apps to use WebKit, the underlying engine of *Safari*. This means browsers on the iPad and iPhone are only different in terms of features. (An exception is *Opera Mini*, which parses content through *Opera's* own servers, rendering the result to the app.)

If you very regularly browse the web on an iOS device and your Mac, that might impact on which browser you use. If you use iCloud, Apple's *Safari* is a good choice, automatically syncing bookmarks across

devices. Universal app *Sleipnir* does much the same, once you've created a free account. However, unlike *Safari*, *Sleipnir* lacks cross-platform interface consistency. *RockMelt* can also sync, but is only available for iPhone.

Elsewhere, *Firefox* has a bookmark sync app, *Firefox Home* (iPhone only) rather than a browser, *Chrome* relies on third-party bookmark-sync apps, and *Opera Mini* will, in theory, sync bookmarks with *Opera* on the desktop via the Opera Link service, but we couldn't get this to work properly.



If you use Safari for iOS, iCloud can sync bookmarks with OS X.

>>TEST THREE

Accessing content

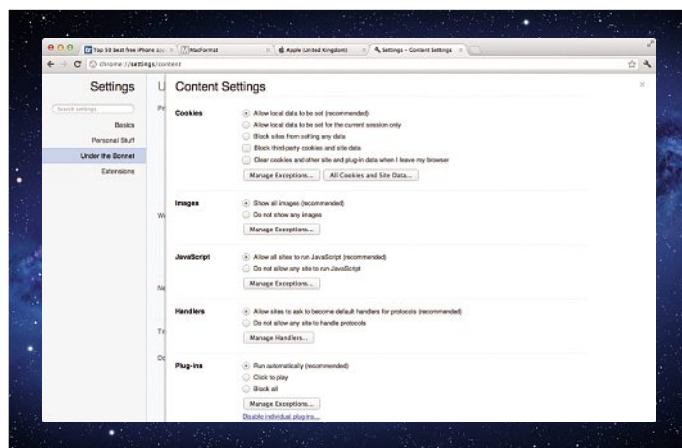
Is it easy to search the web and bookmark favourites?

All browsers offer in-page searching, highlighting terms across a page. *Safari* is clearest, but *Opera* impresses by enabling you to force-match cases and whole words. *Firefox* disappoints with a manual 'highlight all' button, but wins out elsewhere: its so-called 'awesome bar' (address bar) is adaptable, enabling you to type terms or URLs to grab matches from your history, bookmarks and open tabs; you can also tag and add keywords to bookmarks. *Opera* largely matches *Firefox*, with a great address bar, bookmark keywords, and it also has a clean intro page for pinned favourites.

Of the rest, *Chrome* and *RockMelt* enable keywords for search engines, but bookmarks management is basic, and *Safari* boasts an impressive 'Top Sites' screen but gloss impacts negatively on visual history search, which is sluggish; *Sleipnir* tries something new with a categorised tabbing and bookmarks system, but it confuses rather than helps.

>>TEST RESULTS

Chrome	★★★★★
Firefox	★★★★★
Opera	★★★★★
RockMelt	★★★★★
Safari	★★★★★
Sleipnir	★★★★★



Chrome has plenty of content-blocking options, it's just a pity they're so 'hidden'.

>>TEST FOUR

Blocking content

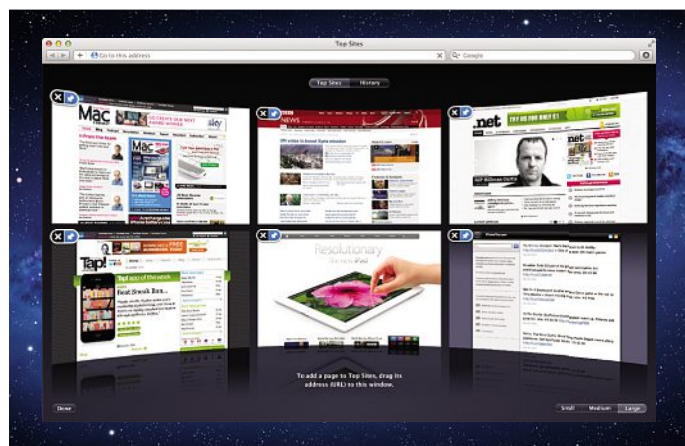
Can you block unwanted content and phishing scams?

Blocked content is usually either dangerous or irritating in nature. The former kind typically involves 'phishing' sites, which attempt to fool you into giving up personal information. Excepting *Sleipnir*, all browsers on test deal with phishing, and they clearly warned when we tried to access such sites. Content that's considered annoying will vary from person to person, perhaps involving advertising, scripts or pop-ups. *Sleipnir* redeems itself somewhat with an excellent one-click ad-block function, while *Safari* has simple preferences for blocking scripting and plug-ins. The others

all require more user involvement, activating a bunch of options. Without add-ons, *Firefox*'s blocking options are disappointingly limited, but *Chrome* and *RockMelt* have a great range of settings, despite 'hiding' them somewhat in Settings > Under the Bonnet > Content Settings. *Opera* has fewer options, but they're easily accessible via Opera > Quick Preferences.

>>TEST RESULTS

Chrome	★★★★★
Firefox	★★★★★
Opera	★★★★★
RockMelt	★★★★★
Safari	★★★★★
Sleipnir	★★★★★



Safari's Top Sites page is great, but the gloss does affect performance elsewhere.

>>THE WINNER / Chrome

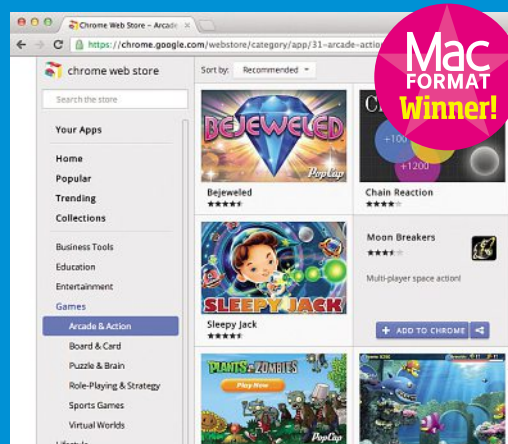
With the exception of *Sleipnir*, which feels like a work-in-progress, any of these browsers would be fine as a primary browser. However, *RockMelt*'s attempts to integrate social networking and its own slew of 'apps' on top of *Chrome* add clutter and irritate; *Opera* and *Safari* suffer a little due to performance issues and also *Safari*'s relatively slow update cycle.

Of the two standouts, *Chrome* pips *Firefox*. While Mozilla's offering, especially in terms of extensibility and accessing content, it somehow feels a little dated,

and its lack of OS X integration grates. By contrast, Google's browser feels current, performs well across the board (not least with HTML5-based apps), and it also feels perfectly at home on the Mac.

>>FINAL RESULTS

Chrome	★★★★★
Firefox	★★★★★
Opera	★★★★★
RockMelt	★★★★★
Safari	★★★★★
Sleipnir	★★★★★





Tech Life presents Drive



Car tech. Inside and out.

Drive £1.99

On-sale now in the T3 kiosk iOS app and on Google Play



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HOW TO BUY

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"The new iPad comes in black or white, and each in three capacities"

CHOOSING THE SIZE OF YOUR NEW IPAD P122

Buyers' Guide

ALL THE BEST KIT TO GO WITH YOUR MAC



Tim Hardwick
Apps Guru

This month's rumour mill would have you believe Apple is on the verge of dropping the 17-inch variety of its MacBook Pro due to poor sales. If you're particularly enamoured with that notebook size - and you take market analyst predictions as gospel - then you might want to snap one up!

The other Mac range rumour also doing the rounds is that Apple is set to re-introduce the standard white MacBook, which was popular with

students in its heyday. Why aren't they just buying MacBook Airs instead? Some say the relative expense of spacious solid-state storage is putting many of them off. Still, for Apple to offer a new Mac with a mechanical hard disk seems a backward step to us.

Finally, we're still waiting for that fated MacBook Pro refresh. Now that Intel has unveiled its new line of Ivy Bridge processors, we reckon the possibility just became all the more likely.

>> BUYING ADVICE YOU CAN TRUST

Our mission is to ensure that when you buy a Mac-related product, you are completely informed about its best and worst features. We have a cast-iron policy of editorial independence. **For the latest prices and full review see the TechRadar URL listed next to each review.**

How to buy a new Mac

Not sure which Mac to buy? We'll help you choose!



>> DID YOU KNOW THIS?

The top-of-the-range Mac Pro has two 2.66GHz six-Core Intel Xeon 'Westmere' processors. You can upgrade them to 2.93GHz CPUs using the online custom options.

The Mac Pro has two optical drive bays, though one is empty unless you order a second drive as a custom option.



Apple sells its products every which way at once. You can buy a Mac direct from the online Apple Store (<http://store.apple.com/uk>); from one of the growing number of bricks-and-mortar Apple Stores around the country; from official 'Apple shops' within department stores, staffed by certified Apple Solutions Consultants; and from hundreds of independent Apple Authorised Resellers and Premium Resellers, variously selling online or on the high street.

The bigger independents buy direct from Apple, while others go through a network of distributors. To find the one nearest you, go to www.apple.com/uk/buy. Given this range of outlets, shopping around for your Mac could save you money – but probably not very much. There simply isn't much profit margin for independent dealers to knock off. The Mac's popularity means Apple doesn't have to leave a big gap between its wholesale prices and Apple Store prices – effectively the minimum and maximum level at which retailers can sell their wares.

Authorised Resellers may knock a few pounds off Apple Store prices, and can also sell you other kit at competitive prices. Although you may find fractionally lower prices online, by choosing a local dealer you could get the

The mid-2011 refresh brought quad-core Sandy Bridge processors to the iMac range.



benefit of trying before you buy and having someone on hand to answer questions. Either way, Mac resellers tend to be very knowledgeable and keen to help.

There are a couple of other ways to cut the cost of a new Mac. Business buyers can save a fortune by

price of £1,649. Authorised Resellers can access these special rates and may even shave a bit more off for you.

To help you find the cash, Apple also offers financing options. For consumers, this spreads the payments, though you do pay interest. For businesses, flexible leasing knocks

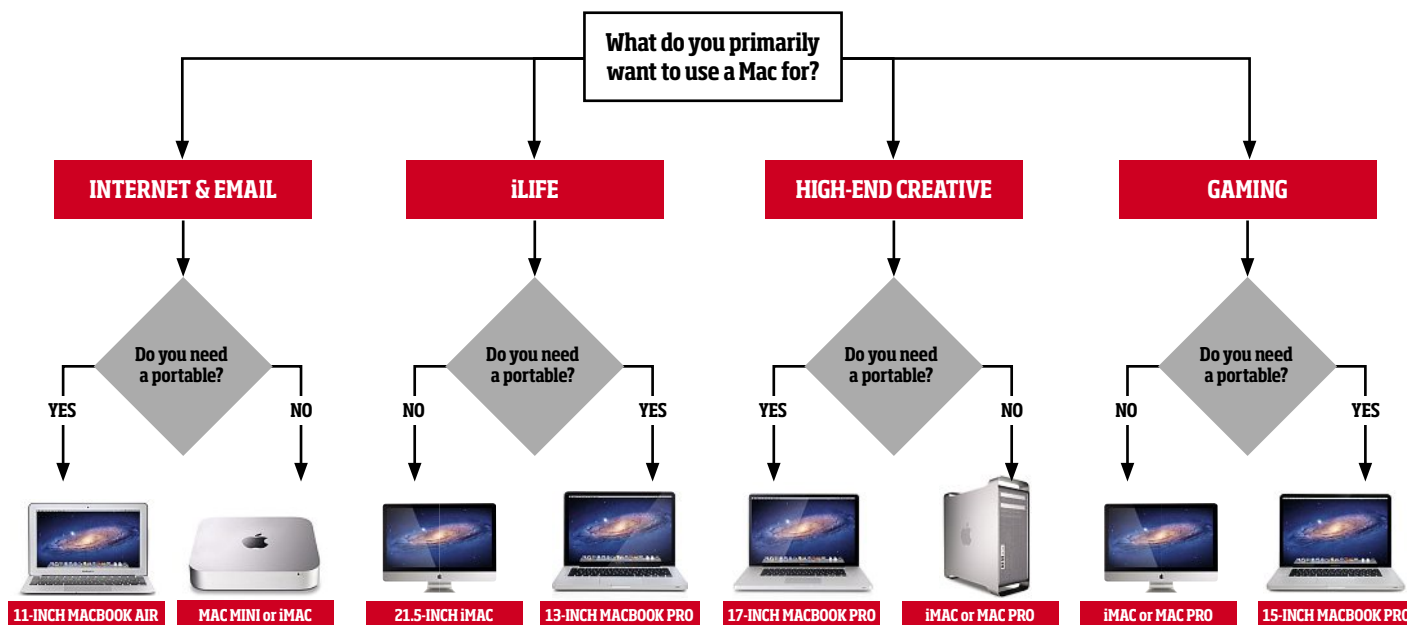
"Any student or teacher can get special pricing for education, and that includes schoolkids. Simply follow links to the Education Store."

reclaiming the VAT and offsetting the purchase against tax. If you're not eligible, you may still qualify for a discount from Apple. Any student or teacher can get special pricing. That includes schoolkids (follow links to the Education Store for more). The reductions aren't huge, but they're worth having. For example, a top-of-the-range 27-inch iMac lists for £1,550.40, compared to the regular

more off your tax bill and lets you upgrade your hardware – and indeed software – when necessary without spending big chunks of capital. You can find out plenty more at www.apple.com/uk/financing.

Your budget will stretch even further with clearance, refurb and second-user deals. If you can suppress your envy of marginally newer, shinier kit, the best time to shop for a Mac is

>> CHOOSING A MAC / Which one is right for you?



just after Apple brings out new models. Wander down to John Lewis and you're quite likely to find the last of the old range with three-figure reductions. Do check the specs against the incoming versions, which will offer more for the same original price, but at the bottom end of the range you could pay less than the current entry-level for a perfectly good machine. Anywhere that holds Macs in stock is similarly worth a raid, and online retailers also have clearance bins.

Saving money

Apple itself has a surprisingly little-known online bargain basement at <http://store.apple.com/uk/browse/home/specialdeals/mac>. It's a treasure trove of cut-price kit, with some clearance items and many described as 'refurbished'. This usually means someone's bought a Mac, then changed their mind or found a problem and sent it back. Industry insiders tell us these returns often have absolutely nothing wrong with them, and in any case they're fully tested and any faults fixed before they're resold. They're guaranteed for a full year, extendable up to three years via AppleCare.

Besides deciding who to buy from, there's the tricky question of which

Apple notebooks are known for their excellent screens, with great viewing angles.

Mac to pick. You can have a MacBook Pro, MacBook Air, Mac mini, iMac or Mac Pro. Most Mac families offer several standard models, plus plenty

"Apple itself has a surprisingly little-known online bargain basement. it's a treasure trove of cut-price kit, many items 'refurbished'."

of built-to-order options, adding up to hundreds of possibilities.

By comparing the prices of different configurations – easily done at <http://store.apple.com/uk> – you can suss out the best value. For example, the entry-level 21.5-inch iMac is a bargain at £999. If you want a higher spec, the

next option doubles the hard disk space and adds a more powerful graphics card, but it's an extra £250. However, you're not limited to the

preset models. By clicking the Select button, you can tweak the listed specifications to create your own Mac. The only downside is that you'll need to allow a week or two for your own personal Mac to arrive.

Just think of it as an exercise in delayed gratification.



>> DID YOU KNOW THIS?

Apple's MagSafe power connector is held in place by a magnet, and is designed to snap out if the power cord is tugged, preventing potentially expensive accidents.

How to choose the perfect Mac

Let us help you make the right purchase. Here are your options...

21.5-inch 2.5GHz £999

- 2.5GHz quad-core Intel Core i5
- 21.5-inch glossy widescreen at 1,920x1,080 pixels • 4GB RAM (expandable to up to 16GB) • 500GB hard drive
- 8x double-layer SuperDrive
- AMD Radeon HD 6750M graphics with 512MB GDDR5 memory • 4x USB 2.0 ports; 1x FireWire 800 port; 1x Thunderbolt port; 1xSDXC card slot • Ships with Mac OS X Lion, iLife '11, Magic Mouse, keyboard



iMac

Updated
May
2011

21.5-inch 2.7GHz £1,249

- 2.7GHz quad-core Intel Core i5
- 21.5-inch glossy widescreen at 1,920x1,080 pixels • 4GB RAM (expandable to up to 16GB) • 1TB hard drive
- 8x double-layer SuperDrive
- AMD Radeon HD 6770M graphics with 512MB GDDR5 memory • 4x USB 2.0 ports; 1x FireWire 800 port; 1x Thunderbolt port; 1xSDXC card slot • Ships with Mac OS X Lion, iLife '11, Magic Mouse, keyboard

27-inch 2.7GHz £1,399

- 2.7GHz quad-core Intel Core i5
- 27-inch glossy widescreen at 2,560x1,440 pixels • 4GB RAM (expandable to up to 16GB) • 1TB hard drive • 8x double-layer SuperDrive • AMD Radeon HD 6770M graphics with 512MB GDDR5 memory
- 4x USB 2.0 ports; 1x FireWire 800 port; 2x Thunderbolt ports; 1xSDXC card slot • Ships with Mac OS X Lion, iLife '11, Magic Mouse, keyboard

27-inch 3.1GHz £1,649

- 3.1GHz quad core Intel Core i5
- 27-inch glossy widescreen at 2,560x1,440 pixels • 4GB RAM (expandable to up to 16GB) • 1TB hard drive
- 8x double-layer SuperDrive
- AMD Radeon HD 6970M graphics with 1GB GDDR5 memory • 4x USB 2.0 ports; 1x FireWire 800 port; 2x Thunderbolt port; 1xSDXC card slot • Ships with Mac OS X Lion, iLife '11, Magic Mouse, keyboard

2.3GHz 500GB £529

- 2.3GHz dual core Intel Core i5
- 2GB RAM (2x 1GB 1,333MHz)
- 500GB SATA, 5,400rpm HDD
- 3MB shared L3 cache
- Intel HD Graphics 3000 with 288MB of DDR3 SDRAM shared with main memory • 802.11n Wi-Fi, Bluetooth 4.0, 10/100/1000BASE-T Ethernet
- 1x Thunderbolt, 1xFireWire 800, 4x USB 2.0 ports • SDXC card reader • Lion, iLife '11
- HDMI video out with HDMI to DVI adapter • No optical drive



Mac mini

Updated
July
2011

2.5GHz 500GB £699

- 2.5GHz dual core Intel Core i5
- 4GB RAM (2x 2GB 1333MHz)
- 500GB SATA, 5,400rpm HDD
- 3MB shared L3 cache
- AMD Radeon HD 6630M graphics processor with 256MB of GDDR5 memory • 802.11n Wi-Fi, Bluetooth 4.0, 10/100/1000BASE-T Ethernet
- 1x Thunderbolt, 1xFireWire 800, 4x USB 2.0 ports • SDXC card reader • Lion, iLife '11
- HDMI video out with HDMI to DVI adapter • No optical drive

Quad-Core

£2,041

- 2.8GHz Quad-Core Intel Xeon
- 3GB RAM (expandable to up to 16GB) • ATI Radeon HD 5770 with 1GB of GDDR5 memory
- Two Mini DisplayPorts, one DVI port • 1TB 7,200rpm Serial ATA 3Gb/s • 18x SuperDrive with double-layer support (DVD±R DL/DVD±RW/CD-RW)
- 4x PCI Express 2.0 expansion slots • 5x USB 2.0; 4x FW 800 ports • Keyboard with numerical keypad & Magic Mouse

8-Core

£2,859

- Two 2.4GHz Quad-Core Intel Xeon • 6GB RAM (expandable to up to 32GB) • ATI Radeon HD 5770 with 1GB of GDDR5 memory • Two Mini DisplayPorts, one DVI port • 1TB 7,200rpm Serial ATA 3Gb/s • 18x SuperDrive with double-layer support (DVD±R DL/DVD±RW/CD-RW)
- 4x PCI Express 2.0 expansion slots • 5x USB 2.0; 4x FW 800 ports • Keyboard with numerical keypad & Magic Mouse

12-Core

£4,083

- Two 2.6GHz 6-Core Intel Xeon
- 6GB RAM (expandable to up to 32GB) • ATI Radeon HD 5770 with 1GB of GDDR5 memory
- Two Mini DisplayPorts, one DVI port • 1TB 7,200rpm Serial ATA 3Gb/s • 18x SuperDrive with double-layer support (DVD±R DL/DVD±RW/CD-RW)
- 3x PCI Express 2.0 expansion slots • 5x USB 2.0; 4x FW 800 ports • Keyboard with numerical keypad & Magic Mouse

Mac Pro

Updated August 2010

13-inch 2.4GHz

£999

- 13.3-inch LED-backlit glossy widescreen 1,280x800 pixels
- 2.4GHz dual-core Intel Core i5 processor • 7-hour battery
- 4GB (two 2GB SO-DIMMs) of 1,333MHz DDR3 memory
- 500GB, 5,400rpm hard drive
- 8x slot-loading SuperDrive (DVD±R DL/DVD±RW/CD-RW)
- Intel HD Graphics 3000
- Mac OS X 10.7 and iLife '11
- 1x Thunderbolt port, 1x FireWire 800, 2x USB 2.0, 1x SDXC card slot

13-inch 2.8GHz

£1,299

- 13.3-inch LED-backlit glossy widescreen 1,280x800 pixels
- 2.8GHz dual-core Intel Core i7 processor • 7-hour battery
- 4GB (two 2GB SO-DIMMs) of 1,333MHz DDR3 memory
- 750GB, 5,400rpm hard drive
- 8x slot-loading SuperDrive (DVD±R DL/DVD±RW/CD-RW)
- Intel HD Graphics 3000
- Mac OS X 10.7 and iLife '11
- 1x Thunderbolt port, 1x FireWire 800, 2x USB 2.0, 1x SDXC card slot

15-inch 2.2GHz

£1,549

- 15.4-inch LED-backlit glossy widescreen 1,440x900 pixels
- 2.2GHz quad-core Intel Core i7, 6MB shared L3 cache • 4GB 1,333MHz DDR3 memory
- 500GB, 5,400rpm hard drive
- 8x slot-loading SuperDrive (DVD±R DL/DVD±RW/CD-RW)
- AMD Radeon HD 6750M graphics processor with 512MB of GDDR5 memory • Mac OS X 10.7 and iLife '11 • 1x Thunderbolt port, 1x FW 800, 2x USB 2.0, 1x SDXC slot

15-inch 2.4GHz

£1,849

- 15.4-inch LED-backlit glossy widescreen 1,440x900 pixels
- 2.4GHz quad-core Intel Core i7, 6MB shared L3 cache • 4GB 1,333MHz DDR3 memory
- 750GB, 5,400rpm hard drive
- 8x slot-loading SuperDrive (DVD±R DL/DVD±RW/CD-RW)
- AMD Radeon HD 6770M graphics processor with 1GB of GDDR5 memory • Mac OS X 10.7 and iLife '11 • 1x Thunderbolt port, 1x FW 800, 2x USB 2.0, 1x SDXC slot

13-inch models

£1,099/£1,349

- 1.7GHz Intel Core i5 CPU
- 13.3-inch LED-backlit glossy widescreen at 1,440x900 pixels • 128GB or 256GB of flash storage
- Intel HD Graphics 3000 processor • 4GB of 1333MHz DDR3 memory • Seven-hour battery life, or 30 days on standby • FaceTime camera
- 2x USB 2.0 ports, Thunderbolt port, 802.11n Wi-Fi, Bluetooth 4.0 • SD reader • Lion and iLife '11

11-inch models

£849/£999

- 1.6GHz Intel Core i5 CPU
- 11.6-inch LED-backlit glossy widescreen at 1,366x768 pixels • 64GB or 128GB of flash storage
- Intel HD Graphics 3000 processor • 2GB or 4GB of 1333MHz DDR3 memory
- Five-hour battery life, or 30 days on standby • FaceTime camera • 2x USB 2.0 ports, Thunderbolt port, 802.11n Wi-Fi, Bluetooth 4.0 • Lion and iLife '11 preinstalled

17-inch 2.4GHz

£2,099

- 17-inch LED-backlit glossy widescreen 1,920x1,200 pixels
- 2.4GHz quad-core Intel Core i7, 6MB shared L3 cache • 4GB 1,333MHz DDR3 memory
- 750GB, 5,400rpm hard drive
- 8x slot-loading SuperDrive (DVD±R DL/DVD±RW/CD-RW)
- AMD Radeon HD 6770M graphics processor with 1GB of GDDR5 memory • Mac OS X 10.7, iLife '11 • 1x Thunderbolt port, 1x FireWire 800, 3x USB 2.0, 1x ExpressCard/34 slot

Updated July 2011



Updated July 2011



Updated Oct 2011



MacBook Air

MacBook Pro

What about an iPhone or iPad?

Apple's mobile devices are designed to sync perfectly with your Mac

>>> DID YOU KNOW THIS?



The new iPhone 4S is available in black or white. It features a powerful new eight-megapixel camera (60% more pixels than before), with advanced optics, a larger f/2.4 aperture and 1080p HD video recording.

Both the iPhone and iPad have a touchscreen, come with email and web-browsing applications and are capable of running third-party apps that you can get from Apple's App Store. But the iPad isn't simply a bigger iPhone. The iPhone is first and foremost a phone, and like all mobile phones, unless you buy it on Pay as You Go (which makes the device itself much more expensive) you're going to be tied into a phone contract.

If you want all the features of the iPhone but without the phone part, then consider getting an iPod touch instead (see over the page).

If you're looking for a phone then you'll find the iPhone is designed to cover all your data needs while you're on the go, and fits in your pocket.

In contrast, the iPad is a device that sits somewhere between an iPhone and a Mac. It also comes with a data contract option, but that doesn't include phone calls. The only phone calls you can make with it will be digitally, using VoIP apps, such as Skype. While a lot of people find the iPhone perfectly acceptable for home use, if you just need to check your email or do a quick bit of web surfing, the iPad is positively designed to be used from your sofa. It has built-in Wi-Fi, which

All of Apple's current generation of iOS devices now boast a high resolution Retina display.



Use your iPad to surf the web, run apps, send and receive emails, and listen to your music.



means you can check emails and browse the web on your wireless network at home. With the release of iOS 5 back in the Autumn of 2011, iOS devices no longer have to be activated using a USB link to iTunes on a Mac or

iPhone 4S. The iPhone 4 and the new iPhone 4S feature a stunning 960x640 high-resolution display, making it much easier to read on-screen text. The iPhone 4S boasts a dual-core A5 processor, giving it up

"The iPad uses solid-state memory, so it's pretty-much instant on. There's no waiting around for it to boot up. It's also lightweight"

PC. You can still keep your data on your computer and sync it if you wish, but it's perfectly possible to have an iOS device without owning a computer.

The iPad has some big advantages over a laptop. For a start, because it uses solid-state memory it's pretty-much instant on. There's no waiting around for it to boot up. It's also lightweight, extremely portable and the perfect size to be used as an ebook reader.

The iPhone currently comes in three versions, the 3GS, iPhone 4 and

to twice as much power and up to seven times faster graphics. Its eight-megapixel camera is much improved, and its new Siri feature lets you operate your iPhone by speaking.

The iPad comes in black and white, each in three capacities, 16GB, 32GB and 64GB, available in Wi-Fi or Wi-Fi + 4G versions. Each 4G version costs £100 more than a Wi-Fi-only model with a similar memory capacity. However, as there are currently no 4G networks in the UK, an iPad 4G will only attain 3G speeds over here.



iPad 2, 16GB

£329 Wi-Fi

£429 Wi-Fi + 3G

• 9.7-inch LED-widescreen, 1,024x768 pixels • 1GHz dual core Apple A5 CPU • 25Wh battery gives up to 10 hours use • 3.5mm stereo headphone jack • Built-in speaker & mic • 720p, 30 fps rear-facing camera, VGA front camera • GPS (iPad Wi-Fi + 3G only) • 241.2x185.7x8.8mm • 601g (Wi-Fi), 613g (Wi-Fi + 3G) • Accelerometer, three-axis gyro, ambient light sensor

iPad

Updated
March
2012



New iPad, 16GB

£399 Wi-Fi

£499 Wi-Fi + 4G

• 9.7-inch LED-widescreen, 2048x1536 pixels • Dual-core Apple A5X processor • 42.5Wh battery gives up to 10 hours use • 3.5mm stereo headphone jack • Built-in speaker & mic • 1080p, 30 fps rear-facing camera, VGA front camera • GPS (iPad Wi-Fi + 4G only) • 241.2x185.7x9.4mm • 652g (Wi-Fi), 662g (Wi-Fi + 4G) • Ambient light sensor, accelerometer, gyroscope

New iPad, 32GB

£479 Wi-Fi

£579 Wi-Fi + 4G

• 9.7-inch LED-widescreen, 2048x1536 pixels • Dual-core Apple A5X processor • 42.5Wh battery gives up to 10 hours use • 3.5mm stereo headphone jack • Built-in speaker & mic • 1080p, 30 fps rear-facing camera, VGA front camera • GPS (iPad Wi-Fi + 4G only) • 241.2x185.7x9.4mm • 652g (Wi-Fi), 662g (Wi-Fi + 4G) • Ambient light sensor, accelerometer, gyroscope

New iPad, 64GB

£559 Wi-Fi

£659 Wi-Fi + 4G

• 9.7-inch LED-widescreen, 2048x1536 pixels • Dual-core Apple A5X processor • 42.5Wh battery gives up to 10 hours use • 3.5mm stereo headphone jack • Built-in speaker & mic • 1080p, 30 fps rear-facing camera, VGA front camera • GPS (iPad Wi-Fi + 4G only) • 241.2x185.7x9.4mm • 652g (Wi-Fi), 662g (Wi-Fi + 4G) • Ambient light sensor, accelerometer, gyroscope

>> CHOOSING AN IPOD



Updated
September
2010

iPod shuffle 2GB

£40

• Up to 500 songs • No ability to display photos or videos • Available in five colours: silver, blue, green, yellow, pink • No screen, but the control pad returns • VoiceOver enables your iPod to talk to you • 3.5-mm stereo headphone jack is used for both audio out and USB charging • Battery lasts up to 15 hours • 29x31.6x8.7mm • 12.5g



Updated
October
2011

iPod touch 8GB

£169

• Up to 1,750 songs • Up to 10,000 photos • Up to 10 hours of video • Available in black or white • 3.5-inch screen, 960x640 pixels • Wi-Fi (802.11b/g/n, 802.11n at 2.4GHz only) • Nike + iPod support • Battery lasts up to 40 hours (audio) seven hours (video) • Video recording at 720p HD, up to 30 frames per second • 960x720 still photos • 111x58.9x7.2mm • 101g



Updated
October
2011

iPod nano 8GB

£115

• Up to 2,000 songs • Up to 7,000 photos • Includes Nike+iPod support • Available in silver, black, blue, green, yellow, pink and red (Apple Store exclusive) • 1.54-inch diagonal Multi-Touch screen • 240x240 pixel resolution (220 pixels per inch) • Battery lasts up to 24 hours • Includes VoiceOver technology and an FM radio • 37.5x40.9x 8.78mm • 21.1g

iPod nano 16GB

£129

• Up to 4,000 songs • Up to 14,000 photos • Includes Nike+iPod support • Available in silver, black, blue, green, yellow, pink and red (Apple Store exclusive) • 1.54-inch diagonal Multi-Touch screen • 240x240 pixel resolution (220 pixels per inch) • Battery lasts up to 24 hours • Includes VoiceOver technology and an FM radio • 37.5x40.9x 8.78mm • 21.1g

iPod touch 32GB

£249

• Up to 7,000 songs • Up to 25,000 photos • Up to 40 hours of video • Available in black or white • 3.5-inch screen, 960x640 pixels • Wi-Fi (802.11b/g/n, 802.11n at 2.4GHz only) • Nike + iPod support • Battery lasts up to 40 hours (audio) seven hours (video) • Video recording at 720p HD, up to 30 frames per second • 960x720 still photos • 111x58.9x7.2mm • 101g

iPod touch 64GB

£329

• Up to 14,000 songs • Up to 50,000 photos • Up to 80 hours of video • Available in black or white • 3.5-inch screen, 960x640 pixels • Wi-Fi (802.11b/g/n, 802.11n at 2.4GHz only) • Nike + iPod support • Battery lasts up to 40 hours (audio) seven hours (video) • Video recording at 720p HD, up to 30 frames per second • 960x720 still photos • 111x58.9x7.2mm • 101g

Updated
October
2011

iPhone



iPhone 3GS 8GB

£319 (Pay & Go)

• Available in black • 3.5-inch widescreen • 320x480 pixels • Wi-Fi (802.11b/g) • Quad-band GSM, tri-band 3G • Assisted GPS • Bluetooth 2.0 + EDR • Photo and video geotagging • Battery lasts up to 30 hours (audio) • Battery lasts up to 10 hours (video) • Battery lasts up to 12 hours (talktime) • 115.5x62.1x12.3mm • 135g • Requires Mac OS X 10.5.8 or later

iPhone 4 8GB

£429 (Pay & Go)

• Available in black or white • 3.5-inch widescreen • 960x640 pixels • Wi-Fi (802.11b/g/n) • Quad-band GSM, tri-band 3G • Assisted GPS • Bluetooth 2.1 + EDR • Photo and video geotagging • Battery lasts up to 40 hours (audio) • Battery lasts up to 10 hours (video) • Battery lasts up to 14 hours (talktime) • 115.5x58.6x9.3mm • 137g • Requires Mac OS X 10.5.8 or later

iPhone 4S 16, 32 or 64GB

From £499 (Pay & Go)

• Available in black or white • 3.5-inch widescreen • 960x640 pixels • Wi-Fi (802.11b/g/n) • UMTS/HSDPA/HSUPA/GSM/EDGE, 3G • Bluetooth 4.0 • Siri • Assisted GPS • Photo and video geotagging • Battery lasts up to 40 hours (audio), 10 hours (video), 14 hours (talktime) • 8MP camera • 115.5x58.6x9.3mm • 140g • Mac OS X 10.5.8 or later

iPod classic 160GB

£197

• Up to 40,000 songs • Up to 25,000 photos • Up to 200 hours of video • Available in black and silver • 2.5-inch screen • 320x240 pixels • Battery lasts up to 36 hours (audio) • Battery lasts up to 6 hours (video) • 103.5x61.8x 10.5mm • 140g

Updated
September
2009



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Available on the
App Store

BUYERS' GUIDE

>> KEYBOARDS & MICE

Logitech Solar KB K750



★★★★★

Price: £70 **Reviewed:** Issue 242
Web: www.logitech.com/uk
Full rev: www.techradar.com/960675
Key specs: Wireless operation; solar powered; requires Mac OS X 10.4 or later, and a spare USB port for the RF dongle.

- ⊕ No batteries required; Mac button layout; comfortable to type on
- ⊖ Some features need a driver download

"An excellently designed keyboard that matches the Mac's standard button layout. Great solar-powered features."

Wacom Intuos5 touch Med ★★★★★



Price: £330 **Reviewed:** Issue 247
Full review: www.techradar.com/1075347
Key specs: 5080dpi; wireless option; gestures
⊕ Enlarged work area; gestures; new Express Keys
⊖ Expensive

Apple Magic Trackpad ★★★★★



Price: £60 **Reviewed:** Issue 226
Full review: www.techradar.com/713555
Key specs: Bluetooth; supports gestures
⊕ Brings gestures to Apple's desktop range of Macs
⊖ Doesn't work in pre-Snow Leopard OS X

>> PRINTERS & ALL-IN-ONES

Canon PIXMA MG8150



★★★★★

Price: £217 **Reviewed:** Issue 241
Web: www.canon.co.uk
Full review: MF Issue 241 group test
Key specs: USB, Ethernet and Wi-Fi connectivity; PictBridge; Auto Duplex; six ink tanks; print on optical discs

- ⊕ Stellar print quality; comprehensive feature set; elegant and robust
- ⊖ Not AirPrint-compatible

"Solid text printing and stellar photo reproduction, together with a comprehensive feature set, make this a great buy."

Canon PIXMA MG6150 ★★★★★



Price: £100 **Reviewed:** Issue 227
Full review: www.techradar.com/719361
Key specs: Six-tank inkjet; touch-sensitive controls
⊕ Comprehensive connectivity; terrific print quality
⊖ Could be faster

HP Photosmart 7510 ★★★★★



Price: £250 **Reviewed:** Issue 232
Key specs: Multifunction inkjet printer
Full review: www.techradar.com/1042424
⊕ Solid and robust, with excellent print quality
⊖ Lacks one or two features

>> DISPLAYS

EIZO FORIS FS2331



★★★★★

Price: £342 **Reviewed:** Issue 237
Web: www.eizo.co.uk
Full rev: MF Issue 237 group test
Key specs: 2xHDMI, DVI, VGA; screen size 58cm; 1920x1080 resolution; 300cd/m²; contrast ratio 12,000,000:1

- ⊕ Very good value for money mid-range monitor. Great viewing angles
- ⊖ Could be a little more stylish

"The EIZO's big win is the simple but brilliant inclusion of a remote control for tweaking its settings."

Hanns.G HL229DPB ★★★★★



Price: £89 **Reviewed:** Issue 245
Full review: www.techradar.com/1062919
Key specs: 21.5-inch widescreen; 1920x1080
⊕ Cheap, and good quality for the price
⊖ Unattractive design, and thick build

Apple Thunderbolt Display ★★★★★



Price: £899 **Reviewed:** Issue 241
Full review: www.techradar.com/1037021
Key specs: 2560x1440 pixel resolution, 178° angle
⊕ Single cable; daisy-chaining Thunderbolt
⊖ Very expensive; limited compatibility

>> AUDIO DEVICES

Revo K2



★★★★★

Price: £300 **Reviewed:** Issue 243
Web: www.revo.co.uk
Full review: www.techradar.com/1048526
Key specs: Drivers 4x5.8cm; Output 40W; DAB/DAB+, FM, Internet Radio, iOS dock, AUX, streaming audio

- ⊕ Excellent sound; extremely versatile; small footprint; looks great
- ⊖ We've nothing significant to complain about here

"An excellent blend of form and function, the Revo K2 looks as good as it sounds. It's really easy to use too."

Fidelio SoundSphere ★★★★★



Price: £699 **Reviewed:** Issue 243
Full review: www.techradar.com/1049034
Key specs: Max output 50W+50W; AirPlay
⊕ Easy to set up; amazing sound quality
⊖ Very expensive; tweeters vulnerable to damage

Creative Recon3D Omega ★★★★★



Price: £210 **Reviewed:** Issue 241
Full review: www.techradar.com/1030276
Key specs: 50mm drivers, 2.4GHz wireless
⊕ Convincing 3D soundscape; easy to set up
⊖ Mixed results from Scout Mode

BUYERS' GUIDE

>> DIGITAL CAMERAS

Sony Alpha 65



★★★★★

Price: £789 **Reviewed:** Issue 245
Web: www.sony.co.uk
Full rev: www.techradar.com/1047176
Key specs: 23.4MP; Supports JPEG, RAW, simultaneous RAW and JPEG and AVHD/MP4 file formats

- ⊕ Hi-res, detailed images; fast continuous shooting range
- ⊖ Lacks the build quality of the A77

"There's a lot of features on offer, yet it's easy to use and gives great results. Great for experienced and novice users."

Samsung NX100



Price: £249 **Reviewed:** Issue 239
Full review: www.techradar.com/913705
Key specs: 14.6MP; 20-50mm lens, f3.5-5.6; 340g
 ⊕ Powerful and flexible; very good photos
 ⊖ No in-camera stabilisation; a few compromises

Panasonic Lumix DMC-G3



Price: £470 **Reviewed:** Issue 243
Full review: Issue 243 Group Test
Key specs: 15.8MP Live MOS; 3-inch screen
 ⊕ Easy to use; produces great images
 ⊖ Might be a little daunting for beginners

>> DIGITAL VIDEO CAMERAS

Sony HDR-CX115E



★★★★★

Price: £263 **Reviewed:** Issue 233
Web: www.sony.co.uk
Full review: MF Issue 233 group test
Key specs: 1920x1080 resolution; 2.7-inch LCD; covers MPEG4-AVC and H.264 recording formats

- ⊕ Excellent all-round performance, and a compact, portable form factor
- ⊖ There are cheaper camcorders around

"The Sony provides you with all you'd want from a camcorder, with excellent build, features and quality."

Canon HV30



Price: £835 **Reviewed:** Issue 201
Full review: www.techradar.com/468942
Key specs: HDV; DIGIC II processor; MiniDV/SD card
 ⊕ Superb stills and video; better than HDD
 ⊖ Cumbersome to use

Samsung VP-HMX 20C



Price: £375 **Reviewed:** Issue 202
Full review: www.techradar.com/528224
Key specs: 2.7-inch LCD; movie capture at 2.1MP
 ⊕ Good screen; lightweight; offers full HD
 ⊖ Really need to shop around for price

>> ROUTERS/NETWORKING

AVM FRITZ!Box 7390



★★★★★

Price: £210 **Reviewed:** Issue 229
Web: www.fritzbox.eu
Full review: www.techradar.com/912929
Key specs: 802.11n, g, b and a; dual band 2.4GHz and 5GHz; power consumption 6-8 watts; integrated DECT base station

- ⊕ Packed with features, including dual band wireless 'n'; very fast
- ⊖ Expensive, especially if you don't want the telephony functions

"Fast and feature-rich, the FRITZ!Box 7390 could transform your home network. Great traffic-shaping features too."

Devolo dLAN 500 AVplus



Price: £120 **Reviewed:** Issue 241
Full review: www.techradar.com/1037426
Key specs: 500Mbps homeplug networking
 ⊕ Easy to set up and use; versatile; fast speeds
 ⊖ A little bulky for some skirting boards

Netgear N600 Dual Band



Price: £130 **Reviewed:** Issue 246
Full review: www.techradar.com/960825
Key specs: Wi-Fi b/g/n, two USB ports, dual band
 ⊕ Loads of features; USB ports very useful
 ⊖ Expensive; no external antennae

>> STORAGE

Samsung SSD 830



★★★★★

Price: £622 **Reviewed:** Issue 245
Web: www.samsung.com/uk
Full rev: www.techradar.com/1032247
Key specs: 512GB capacity (other sizes are available); 2.5-inch form factor size; SATA connection; bundled accessories

- ⊕ Fast boot times; very good performance; good bundled package
- ⊖ Its bundled software is Windows-only

"A speedy solid state drive that could give your MacBook Pro a very significant performance boost."

Seagate GoFlex Satellite



Price: £170 **Reviewed:** Issue 240
Full review: www.techradar.com/1029702
Key specs: 500GB; Wi-Fi g/n connectivity
 ⊕ Stream media and docs to Mac and iOS over Wi-Fi
 ⊖ No internet bridging

Seagate Monumentus XT



Price: £229 **Reviewed:** Issue 244
Full review: www.techradar.com/1055217
Key specs: Hybrid drive, 750GB
 ⊕ Brings near-SSD speeds with HDD capacities
 ⊖ Not quite as fast as solid-state storage

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BUYERS' GUIDE

>> HOME OFFICE

Writeroom 3.0

★★★★★



Price: £7 **Reviewed:** Issue 242
Web: <http://hogbayssoftware.com>
Full review: <http://bit.ly/vKPIFX>
System reqs: A Mac with an Intel processor is required; This latest version of Writeroom also demands OS X 10.7 Lion.

- ⊕ Great app for writers; default theme now very smart; save and share
- ⊖ No direct markdown support

"Elegant and simple, Writeroom 3.0 is a perfectly balanced and indispensable part of any Mac writer's toolkit."

MacJournal 6

★★★★★



Price: £25 **Reviewed:** Issue 244
Full review: <http://bit.ly/wWpt6Z>
System reqs: OS X 10.6.8 or later
 ⊕ Simple interface; lots of options; smart journals
 ⊖ No significant weaknesses

Nisus Writer Pro 2

★★★★★



Price: £49 **Reviewed:** Issue 237
Full review: www.techradar.com/974528
System reqs: OS X 10.4 or later
 ⊕ Clean, fast and stable; EPUB export
 ⊖ Nisus Writer Express might be enough

>> VISUAL TOOLS & LAYOUT

Photoshop Lightroom 4

★★★★★



Price: £104 **Reviewed:** Issue 247
Web: www.adobe.com/uk
Full review: www.techradar.com/1075537
System reqs: Mac OS X 10.6.8 or higher; multi-core Intel processor; 2GB of onboard memory; 1GB free hard disk space.

- ⊕ Dynamic range controls; new Maps module; integration with Photoshop
- ⊖ Can be slow; Folder and collection separation

"Lightroom 4's image editing has improved greatly, but its organisational approach can still be cumbersome."

BeLight Swift Publisher 3

★★★★★



Price: £14 **Reviewed:** Issue 247
Full review: www.techradar.com/jvVXUx
System reqs: OS X 10.6.8+, Intel Mac
 ⊕ Powerful DTP tools; excellent value
 ⊖ Little between it and Pages '09

Apple iBooks Author

★★★★★



Price: £Free **Reviewed:** Issue 245
Full review: www.techradar.com/1062792
System reqs: OS X 10.7.2 or later
 ⊕ Easy to use; previews to an iPad; free
 ⊖ Lion only; room for improvements

>> SYSTEM UTILITIES

Parallels Desktop 7

★★★★★



Price: £65 **Reviewed:** Issue 240
Web: www.parallels.com/uk
Full review: <http://bit.ly/rHoJoP>
System reqs: OS X 10.5.8 or later; Intel processor; 2GB RAM; sufficient hard drive space for additional OS

- ⊕ More flexible than Boot Camp; Coherence Mode is very useful
- ⊖ Convenience Store a little lacking in content

"If you need to run Windows or Linux on a Mac, Parallels Desktop 7 is a great way to set about it. Powerful and fast."

Roxio Toast 11 Titanium

★★★★★



Price: £85 **Reviewed:** Issue 233
Full review: www.techradar.com/936399
System reqs: OS X 10.5 or later; Intel Mac
 ⊕ Great new features; slick new interface
 ⊖ Fickle VIDEO_TS conversion

Default Folder X 4.4

★★★★★

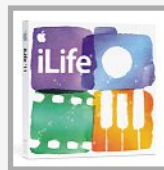


Price: £25 **Reviewed:** Issue 241
Full review: <http://bit.ly/tmJy5o>
System reqs: OS X 10.5 or later; PPC or Intel Mac
 ⊕ Time-saving features; customisable shortcuts
 ⊖ You might not use all its features

>> MULTIMEDIA SOFTWARE

Apple iLife '11

★★★★★



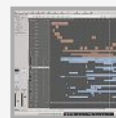
Price: £46 **Reviewed:** Issue 229
Web: www.apple.com/uk
Full review: www.techradar.com/909657
System reqs: Intel processor; 1GB RAM; Mac OS X 10.6.3 or later; 5GB HDD space; display, min. 1280x768-pixel resolution.

- ⊕ Great new features for iPhoto, iMovie and GarageBand
- ⊖ iDVD and iWeb not updated; the iLife suite is now Snow Leopard-only

"It's a pity iLife '11 is Intel-only, but as PowerPC Macs were discontinued in 2006, it's probably time to let go."

Apple Logic Studio

★★★★★



Price: £417 **Reviewed:** Issue 213
Full review: www.techradar.com/625541
System reqs: Intel Mac; 1GB RAM; Mac OS X 10.5.7
 ⊕ Powerful music studio; great tools; good value
 ⊖ Some minor bugs in the initial release

Anime Studio Debut 8

★★★★★



Price: £27 **Reviewed:** Issue 239
Full review: <http://bit.ly/tbw19j>
System reqs: 256MB RAM; OS X 10.5 or later
 ⊕ Great animation toolset; new Character Wizard
 ⊖ Interface still odd-looking

Mac FORMAT

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from your Mac and iPad

Cook - vs - Jobs

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Tim Cook is settling in
to the Apple CEO role



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databases and more, and can print to a comprehensive range of label-sheet templates.

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One more thing...

Kids' stuff

When you have children, there's no such thing as a free app

Children are gullible. It's true that my four-year-old daughter is beginning to get wise to my lies. However in the last few months I've successfully persuaded her that the African chant at the beginning of *The Lion King* is about throwing cats into bins, that if you unscrew your belly button your bum falls off, and that when she goes to bed our black labrador puts on a trenchcoat and goes out solving crimes.

The problem with kids is that the very things that make them so sweet - their complete trust in grown-ups, their utter lack of cynicism and their lack of impulse control - make them very easy to exploit. And that's exactly what many app developers are trying to do.

My daughter loves *Tap Pet Shop*, a *Sims*-style game where you run a pet shop. *Tap Pet Shop* would be better described as In-App Purchases Pet Shop, because almost everything in the game is designed to make you click on a purchase button. When the player buys a new bit of pet kit or expands the store, the game tells them to wait several hours for it to appear - or if they click here, they can speed it up with an in-app purchase. Don't have enough dog treats? Watch this clock for two hours - or click here to buy some more. And so on.

In the early days of the App Store, such apps would have bankrupted me in about half an hour as my

"Niamh Bolton told the BBC that Tap Pet Hotel enabled her child to top a £1,500 bill in two hours"

daughter bought endless Bottles of Paws at £6.99 and Bowls of Treats at £2.99. Niamh Bolton told the BBC that the same developer's *Tap Pet Hotel* enabled her child to rack up a £1,500 bill in two hours. You can avoid that now by disabling in-app purchases, but it's clear that many developers assume that you won't. That's why the App Store is packed with apps whose entire purpose is to trigger in-app purchases, whether that's paid-for apps or expensive in-app fripperies.

I have a particular hatred of Outfit7's talking characters, whose apps' screens are minefields of "buy things!" buttons, but the nadir is probably Beeline Interactive's *Smurfs' Village*, a free app that includes in-app purchases such as a "wagon of smurfberries" for just £69.99.



Illustration: Matthew Hams

How do they sleep?

In the US, Apple is being sued over this. A group of parents led by attorney Garen Meguerian argues that many apps were developed "strategically to induce purchases of Game Currency". Of course they are: it's a proven business model that's seen developers such as *Farmville* creator Zynga become incredibly rich.

I don't have a problem with freemium games that need your wallet to work properly - well, I do, but adults can waste their cash however they like - but I do have a problem when the apps specifically target children. When Apple classifies such apps as suitable for kids, as it did when it gave *Smurfs Village* a rating of 4+, Apple is effectively giving them its stamp of approval. Apple's customers, and their children, deserve better. ●



Freelance writer Gary Marshall has applied so many restrictions to his iPad, it's become almost unusable. "Yes," he says. "But look how safe it is!"

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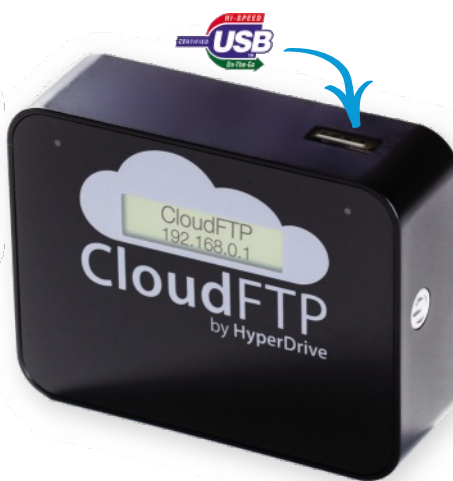


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For the best savings online and on the high street

The ultimate guide to **MOVIES**

An iOS device is a great way to watch films, whether you want to catch a blockbuster on a plane or a romantic comedy in bed. Richard Cobbett has the popcorn

Who needs the silver screen? With an iPad or iPhone, you get not only the world's sleekest window on Hollywood, but instant access to almost every major film ever made. The bright lights of a première are nothing compared to the vibrant colours pouring out of the shiny display. And you always get the best seat in the house, no matter where you are.

Getting a hot new movie onto your iPad isn't difficult. You just need to launch iTunes on it, tap Films, find one you want, and the magic little button marked 'Buy' will do the rest. That may even be all you ever need, and if so, that's fine. It's only scratching the surface of what you can do though, and throughout this feature, we'll show you all the tools and tips you need to watch absolutely anything, from big-name films to your own home videos. We'll go from ripping your own DVDs – a much easier process than it sounds, we promise

– to legally streaming films live over the internet with services such as Netflix and LOVEFiLM. We'll even show you how to send a movie from your iPad to your TV for times when you want the convenience of having your library portable, but the more social experience of actually watching it on a nice big television.

Preparing the ground

The iPad itself is all that you'll actually need – at least if you don't mind buying all your movies from the iTunes Store. In most cases though, you'll also want your computer on-hand, if only to copy the files across that you want to play. Movies can be transferred across in



MOVIES ON iOS



two ways: directly, by plugging it into your PC or Mac; or using Wi-Fi. You can safely forget 3G – while it's technically possible, video files are much too big.

Though we're focusing on the iPad here, pretty much everything we say will work on the iPhone and iPod touch too. The only thing that will make a difference is how much storage space you have to play with. We can't say something as simple as 'you'll get 10 movies on a 16GB model', since every movie is different in terms of length, quality and encoding – though obviously, the more space you have, the better.

As a rough guide, though, you can assume that a good-quality copy of a movie purchased from the iTunes store will need between 1GB and 1.5GB of space, with that doubling if you opt for the high-definition (HD) version of the film. Movies from other stores and other sources can vary a lot. Even in a worst-case scenario though, the basic 16GB iPad can hold more than enough to get you through even the longest journey, so you shouldn't have trouble.

As a side note, it's on these long trips where you watch a lot of video

that the iPad's battery really comes into its own. Assuming that it's fully charged at the start of the journey and that you have Airplane Mode switched on, you can safely expect between eight and 10 hours of video playback from the iPad before it dies.

Over the next few pages, you'll see us using the Mac version of iTunes. Don't worry if you're on a PC –

“You can expect between eight and 10 hours of playback from the iPad”

everything you see applies to both. Where there are differences between platforms, such as when ripping your home movies and converting them into new formats, we'll be offering advice on both individually. In every case, the process is effectively the same, but with slightly different software doing the work. Chances are you already have iTunes installed. If not, install it now, if only for copying

files across to your iPad faster than your Wi-Fi network can. Download it from apple.com/itunes.

Format wars

As you may have found out for yourself already, the iPad's one real flaw as a video device is its support for video formats. Anything purchased or rented in iTunes should just work, no questions asked. The default iPad video player is, however, less than welcoming to movies not provided in the exact format it wants. We'll show you two ways of getting around this, which boil down to converting your videos to a format it can handle, or installing a third-party app capable of playing them. In most cases, we recommend the latter. Needless to say, you'll find both advice on this and pointers to apps that can handle anything you can throw their way.

And with that, our pre-movie preparation is finished. Turn down the lights, turn up the sound, and if you have any irritating kids sitting behind you throwing popcorn, since you're not in a cinema you can send them to their room. Time to jump into the wonderful world of movies on your iPad!

ITUNES STORE

Get movies from iTunes

The easiest, if not necessarily cheapest, way to fill up your iPad with just a few taps

Purchases don't get much easier than in the iTunes Store. On the iPad, it's a one-tap purchase. On your PC/Mac, the only extra delay is syncing the movie file across, and even then, it's only a few seconds.

There are a few subtleties, though. For starters, iTunes both sells and rents movies. If you buy a film, the copy is yours to keep. The catches are that while the price is usually similar to a DVD copy, you often won't get any extras such as commentaries (though there is a chance big releases will come with a few things), and the movie will be encrypted. You'll be able to play it on devices activated with your Apple ID, but not, for example, put it onto a USB stick and load it up on a home media centre or console.

Renting is obviously a shorter term purchase, and much cheaper. From the moment you rent the movie, you have 30 days to start watching it, and 48 hours from the moment you first press play to finish it (24 in the US) before it gets automatically deleted. If you rent the movie from your PC or Mac, it can be transferred to your iPad and back. If you rent it on your iPad directly, it remains stuck there for the duration.

Your other big decision – if the option is available – is whether you want the SD (standard definition) or more expensive HD (high definition) version of the film. This is your call, of course, but if you're only planning to watch the film on your iPad screen, we recommend sticking



You can find movies on the iTunes Store on the iPad, but browsing on your Mac/PC is easier.

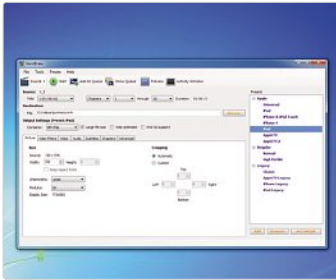
with the cheaper SD version and only paying the HD premium if you also plan to watch it on a desktop monitor/high-def TV.

We'll look at syncing your movies in detail later on, but regardless of whether you buy or rent, copy them from your Mac/PC or download directly from the Pad, you'll find all your saved movies in the Videos app on your Home screen. To start playing one, simply tap it, settle back, and get ready to watch the show. For rentals, you'll be given a warning to make sure you're ready to start your 24/48-hour viewing window. Once the clock starts, though, there's no going back.

01 RIP A DVD

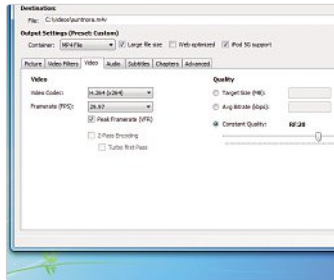
Turn your DVDs into portable video files by ripping them. You're not allowed to do this to commercial DVDs (see p9), but home movies are your own business

PC



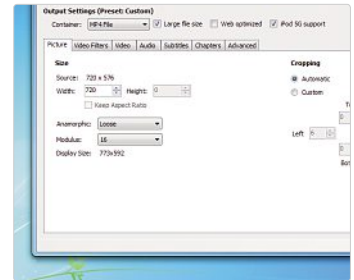
01 Introducing Handbrake

Handbrake is a free video transcoder capable of ripping your DVDs and producing iPad-ready versions. Download it from handbrake.fr, then install and run it. The main screen will pop up, and don't worry if it looks complicated – we're barely going to touch any of these options. Insert your non-copy protected DVD, click the Source button, and select the option with the DVD icon next to it – it should say something like 'D:\VIDEO_TS'.



02 Set the presets

Handbrake will go quiet for a while to read the DVD and all the options will turn grey. To make sure it hasn't crashed, look for a message at the top that says 'Source: Processing Title'. When it finishes, move your cursor over to the right and click on the iPad preset. This will configure everything for you. Finally, click the Start button, and prepare for a long wait. If you don't see it reporting much progress after half an hour, clean the disc and try again.



03 Troubleshooting

Import the finished video to your iPad and check it out. Everything should be fine, but there's a chance you'll need to do some tweaks. The most likely candidates for trouble are the Audio and Subtitles tabs, where you can specify which ones should be used rather than just going with the defaults. As far as the image is concerned, you can get an idea of how it will look by downloading VLC (videolan.com) and clicking the Preview button.

MAC



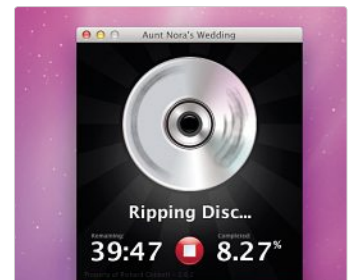
01 The Riplt alternative

Handbrake is also available for Mac, and you can follow the steps above to rip your movies here too. If you don't mind spending a little money, though, we highly recommend Riplt (thelittleappfactory.com). This works alongside Handbrake to convert your videos into iPad formats, but also offers the handy option to create a virtual DVD containing everything from subtitles to extra audio tracks. You can't play this on your iPad, but DVD Player will handle it.



02 Easy compression

Insert your DVD, closing any players that pop up. Riplt will guess at the title, but you can type your own. Next, go to the Riplt menu and enter the Preferences screen. Click on the Compress tab, and make sure that the Video target is set to 'iPad'. Close the window and click the Compress button. When Riplt asks if you want it to guess which titles you want to use, select 'Automatically Compress'. Sit back for a while – transcoding video is a slow process on any platform.



03 Straight into iTunes

Once Riplt has finished, it deposits the video file into iTunes, ready to be synced across to the iPad. In the event that it doesn't come out right, though, you'll have to head back to Handbrake or use Elgato's system explained over the page – Riplt focuses on one-click ripping rather than offering options, and short of manually choosing the titles if it created a version of the movie with the wrong audio track, there's not a lot you can customise.

02 CONVERT A MOVIE

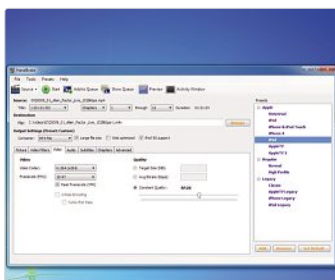
If you already have a movie on your computer, and don't want to use a third-party player, here's how to make it iOS-friendly in (almost) no time at all

PC



01 Back to Handbrake

The process of converting an existing movie file is almost identical to that of ripping a DVD. If you didn't do so on the previous page, download Handbrake from handbrake.fr, install and run it. Click the Source button in the top left. This time, though, instead of selecting a DVD, click the Video File option. Navigate to the one you want to convert in Explorer and click OK. Finally, click the iPad preset on the right, and the Start button to begin the process of conversion.



02 Taking control

In most cases, the default video settings will be fine. Click the Video tab, though, and you can adjust the quality of the converted video in a couple of ways – setting a target size and an average bitrate. The higher you set these (up to a point), the better your final video will look, but the larger the file sizes will be. Unless you're absolutely desperate for space, or want to put literally everything you own onto your iPad, simply let Handbrake use its defaults.



03 Troubleshooting

Depending on the original video you convert, you may find that your final video doesn't look quite right on the iPad screen. If so, open the Picture tab, where you can have the image cropped down to size, or the Video Filters screen to make it less blocky/noisy. You can safely avoid the Advanced tab though, unless you're comfortable with terms like 'Psychovisual Trellis' and 'CABAC Entropy Coding'. Just assume Handbrake knows what it's doing...

MAC



01 The Elgato alternative

Again, everything above works in the same way on the Mac version of Handbrake. If you find converting slow going though, you can get a big speed boost with the Elgato Turbo.264 HD – a USB dongle that you can plug in and have handle the heavy lifting. It's geared specifically towards converting videos to the iPad-friendly (but not very snappily named) h.264 format. At £77, it's not exactly a cheap bit of kit, but it is one that can save you a lot of time.



02 Unleash the speed

Install the software by slipping in the disc and dragging the Turbo.264 HD icon into your Applications folder. Run it, update it to the latest version if necessary, and check the speedometer icon in the top right to make sure it's ready to go. If the pointer is set to 'On', you're all set. Drag and drop a movie file into the window to begin converting. If you get an error message about a missing codec, Google for the one you need, and restart the application.



03 Starting the process

There aren't many options you need to play with, and the only one you really need is 'Format'. Choose 'iPad' from the list, then start. During the conversion process, you'll see a thumbnail of the movie's progress, along with an FPS count and estimate of how much is left. The speed difference? On our test system, converting went from needing 35 minutes to just 15. One warning though: if you haven't seen the movie yet, hide the window. Even thumbnails can spoil! ➤

ESSENTIAL KIT

These great accessories make it even easier to convert videos for your device, watch movies on the go, or send what you're watching to a big TV



SEAGATE GOFLEX SATELLITE £123
Website seagate.com

Running low on space for movies? This handy device holds 500GB worth of them, and you can stream the lot to your iPad using its Wi-Fi connection. Your main restriction is that it only offers five hours of battery life, but it comes with chargers. A 1TB version is also available.

APPLE TV £99
Website apple.com/uk

It used to only be useful in the UK if you bought videos from Apple directly, but the addition of Netflix and the new iPad mirroring feature of iOS 5 means it could well be worth a second look for your movie-streaming needs – even if you need to take both on the road with you.



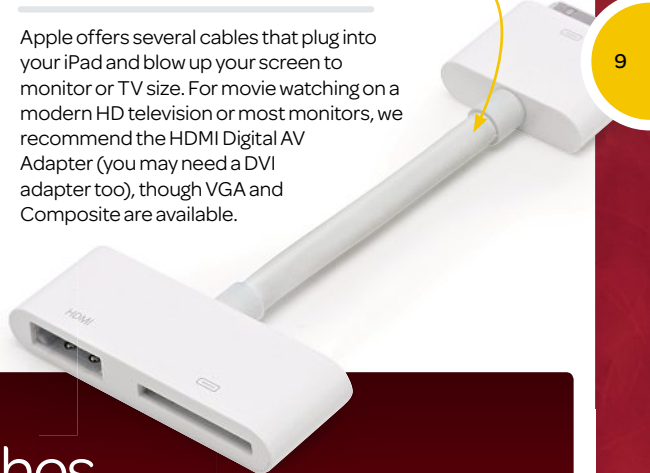
ELGATO TURBO.264 HD £77
Website elgato.com

One for Mac users only, unfortunately, but a great timesaver if you need to encode lots of videos. This handy device spares your computer, giving you iPad-ready versions of your movies much, much faster. Just want the one-click software? It's available without the dongle.



APPLE AV CABLES £25 – £35
Website apple.com/uk

Apple offers several cables that plug into your iPad and blow up your screen to monitor or TV size. For movie watching on a modern HD television or most monitors, we recommend the HDMI Digital AV Adapter (you may need a DVI adapter too), though VGA and Composite are available.



KNOW THE LAW

Avoiding legal headaches

Stay safe by knowing the boundaries of the law – or else!

Let's start with the silliest legal issue: ripping DVDs. As it stands, you're not allowed to take a movie, even if you bought it in a shop, and rip it, even for your own use. The reason for this is that doing so involves breaking the copy protection, which is prohibited by a law called the EUCD in Europe and the DMCA in America. 'Fair use' ('fair dealing' in the UK) offers no exemptions for this.

This is why every DVD ripper out there will (often in very small print) make a point that you're only allowed

to use it for unprotected, non-commercial DVDs. In some cases, they've even enforced that rule. All that said, nobody has ever been dragged before a judge because they wanted to watch their own DVD on their own iPad, in much the same way that the recording industry has never prosecuted anyone solely for ripping their own CDs.

Downloading movies illegally, on the other hand, is a big no-no. Torrent sites especially are a potentially dangerous way to pirate because you're uploading

bits of the movie at the same time as downloading others. Legally speaking, that means you're distributing illegal, copyrighted files as well as acquiring them, which carries far greater fines. The big risk is that if you do get caught, you're not simply going to be on the line for your downloaded copy, but blamed for any copies that other people might have gotten (even in part) from you.

The last potential problem is unlikely, but still worth checking when travelling – that your videos will be legal in any countries you travel to.

03 SYNC MOVIES

You've ripped, converted or downloaded your movies, and now it's time to get them onto your iOS device. Here are the four ways you can make it happen

Syncing everything

The 'kitchen sync' if you will, limited only by the size of your iPad. For when you know you're going to want it all

At first glance, this seems like the obvious choice – especially if you're going to be on the road a lot. In practice, it's best avoided unless you either have a tiny movie collection, or almost always have an empty iPad. After all, it's not just for movies, and you'll want to leave some space for apps, photos and other things.

If this is what you want though, it's easily done. Plug your iPad into your PC or Mac (with movies, it's best to do this rather than use Wi-Fi syncing, purely for speed reasons), click its name under Devices, and choose the Movies tab. Click the button next to 'Sync Movies', and underneath that, the box next to the words 'Automatically include'. If the box after those words doesn't say 'all', click on

that next and make it do so. Finally, click Apply. As long as you have space on your iPad to hold it all, iTunes will now push over everything you've got every time you sync. There's really nothing more to it than that.

One important caveat here is that while this will sync everything in iTunes' Movie library, that isn't necessarily the same as syncing *everything* you might want on the iPad. There's no way to have iTunes automatically copy over anything you play in a third-party tool such as AVPlayer HD, for example. You also have to manually transfer any rentals using an option that appears on the Movies page.



Nothing beats having a huge collection of movies when travelling. Just remember to leave space for other stuff!

Even being hands-off, make a point of keeping an eye on the Capacity bar at the bottom of the sync screen. Video is represented by the colour purple. Use this full sync if you simply can't be bothered with space concerns, but be ready to shift to one of the other options here in due course. Using iTunes playlists, for example, is little more effort, but gives you far more control as your library swells beyond your iPad's capabilities.

Leave it to iTunes

Set up a few rules, sit back, and let iTunes do the heavy lifting every time your iPad connects to see what's new

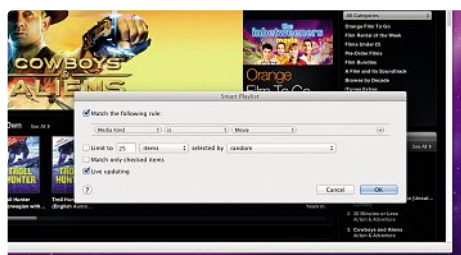
There are two ways to tell iTunes what kind of movies you want on your iPad. The simplest is to plug it into your Mac or PC, click its name under Devices, and click on the Movies tab. At the top of this screen, make sure that Sync Movies is checked (otherwise iTunes won't copy anything across), along with the box next to 'Automatically include'.

Click the box in the middle of the line and you get several options – the very simple 'all movies', the more precise 'all unwatched movies', and up to 10 recent or unwatched movies. Click Apply, and iTunes will sync the current contenders and remember what you want every time it's synced. Set it to 'unwatched', and it'll sync new movies and remove anything you've

seen since you last connected it. With a small collection, this might be enough.

Playlists offer far more control, and there are two kinds available. A normal playlist is a list of movies. Click the + button at the bottom left of the window to create one, give it a name, and drag and drop any movies onto it. Rename it something like 'iPad Movies'. Go back to the Sync screen and uncheck 'Automatically include'. Scroll to the box labelled 'Include Movies from Playlists' and click the box next to your new playlist. Click Apply, and now anything in it will be synced across.

Smart Playlists are capable of filling themselves by adding anything that



With a Smart Playlist, you can make it easy to ensure you've got a constant flow of videos to keep yourself busy on trips.

meets their criteria. Click File > New Smart Playlist to create one. For the first rule, click the boxes there to make it say 'Media Kind' is 'Movies'. Make sure Live Updating is ticked, and that 'Limit to' isn't, for now.

As it stands, this will include every movie in your collection. By pressing the + button by the first rule though, you can add others and filter by criteria such as Rating, Genre and Year. Add this Smart Playlist to your iPad's sync options exactly as you did the regular Playlist.

THIRD-PARTY APPS

Adding movies to other apps

How to sync across the many types of video file that iOS needs a little help with

Drag your video into iTunes and try to sync it with your device. If it won't, it's probably not in the right format, as will be the case with AVI, WMV and MKV files – you'll need to either convert it into an iPad-friendly format, or use a different player app.

Making the video available to that player once you've got it is simple. Open iTunes and connect your iPad. Instead of going to the Movies tab, though, click Apps. Scroll down the page to a box labelled 'File Sharing', and click the name of your movie player – AVPlayerHD for example. Drag and drop the movie files from your desktop into the box labelled '(app name) Documents' and wait while they sync. When this is finished, open the app on your iPad and they'll be there. (They won't appear in the dedicated Videos folder and other player apps you install won't be able to see them.)

Individual apps may offer other ways of importing files. In the case of OPlayer HD, there's a built-in web browser that you can use to find and download them, and the option to open a specific URL – which can be used to connect to FTP servers and SAMBA networks, like a home NAS. Check your app's web page for full instructions and, most importantly, troubleshooting.

Using these players is useful, but there's one catch to them. The iPad's playback benefits from hardware acceleration, while third party ones do everything in software. This means they can't offer HD playback on the original iPad, though the iPad 2 is



It would be handy to be able to drop files onto the iPad and play them with anything...

powerful enough to give it a try, and you can see reduced battery life, and even some glitches. Don't let this put you off trying them – 90% of the time they work fine – but don't be surprised if you experience issues.

Hand-pick your collection

The time-consuming, but far more powerful way to bring your favourite movies to iPad with space to spare

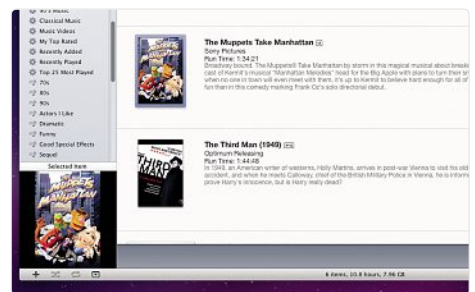
➤ Your final option when it comes to syncing is to pick and choose everything that goes onto your iPad. As with the other methods we've covered, the first step is to go to the Sync Movies screen, accessed by plugging your device into either your PC or Mac, clicking its name, and finally the Movies tab. Make sure that Sync Movies is checked, but that the box next to 'Automatically include' remains unchecked.

All the movies stored on your PC or Mac will be listed in the main box. To add them to the sync list, simply click the box by their name. Whichever movies you've checked the box for will be added to your iPad as soon as you click Apply.

This is a tedious way to handle lots of movies, though, especially since you can't group-select movies or filter the view. A far easier way is to set up a new Playlist. Click the **+** symbol in the

bottom-left corner of the screen and type in an appropriate name. Now return to the Movies section of iTunes and you can either drag and drop your films into it directly, or select them (hold down the mouse button and drag a box around them, or hold down the  key to add items into a group), right-click, and choose Add To Playlist from the menu that pops up, followed by the name of the playlist you just created.

You aren't restricted to one single playlist here. Return to the Movies section of the Sync screen and you'll see that you can create as many as you like. Playlists don't even have to be all-movies. In most cases, it makes sense to stick with one media type, such as music or videos, to avoid your



You can get too anal about your playlists. In most cases, a Smart Playlist will do the the same job with less effort involved.

evening's soundtrack suddenly being interrupted by a movie, for example. Here, iTunes is smart enough to know what files are what. A single 'iPad' playlist can hold absolutely everything you want to take on the road. Alternatively, there's nothing to stop you breaking your library down and having a full set of separate, specific playlists synced over instead.

04 WATCH MOVIES

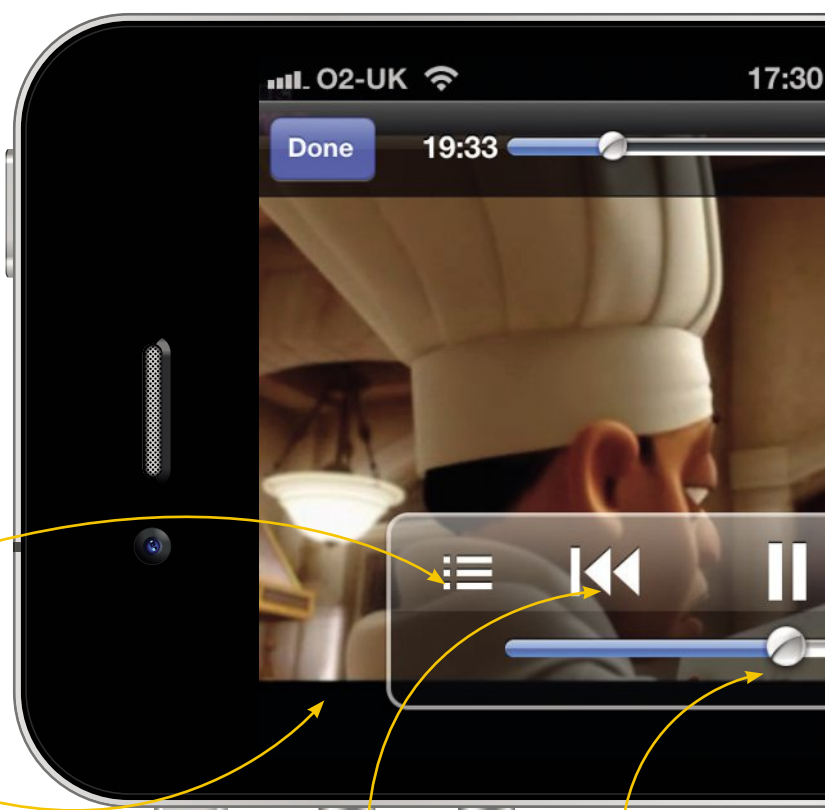
Once you've converted and synced your movies, it's time to sit down and enjoy the fun part! Here's our guide to finding your way around the Videos app

➤ Using the iPad video player is simplicity itself. Open the Videos folder and tap the movie you want to watch. There are a couple of extra features that you might find useful, though, and they're found in the Settings app. Open it and scroll down to Video. Here you can activate closed captioning (subtitles) on movies that include them, and choose whether movies play from the start, or from where you left off last time.

You can also add your iPad to your Home Sharing network by adding your Apple ID and password. This lets you watch anything in your iTunes library without having to copy the file to your iPad, as long as you're in range. A decent Wi-Fi connection is required, though, so don't roam too far.

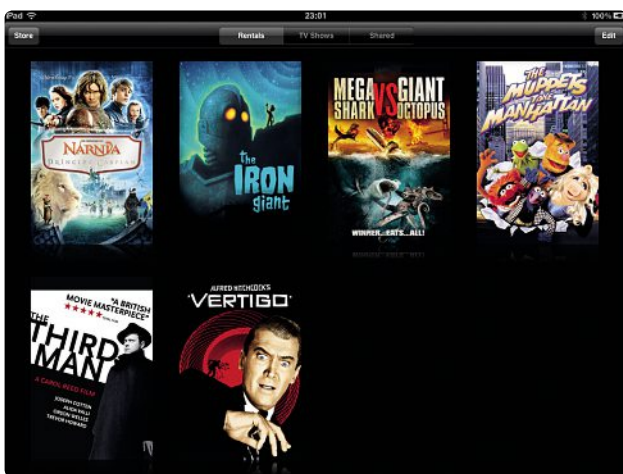
IF THE MOVIE YOU'RE WATCHING IS DIVIDED INTO CHAPTERS, YOU CAN SEE A LIST OF THEM BY TAPPING THIS SYMBOL

STUCK FOR WHAT TO WATCH? EVERYTHING YOU BUY/RENT ON ITUNES BUILDS YOUR GENIUS PROFILE. VISIT THE STORE FOR RECOMMENDATIONS



THE BUTTONS ON EITHER SIDE OF THE PLAY/PAUSE BUTTON JUMP BETWEEN CHAPTERS

THIS SLIDER CONTROLS AUDIO PLAYBACK VOLUME, SAVING YOU THE FIDDLY JOB OF REACHING FOR THE SIDE CONTROLS

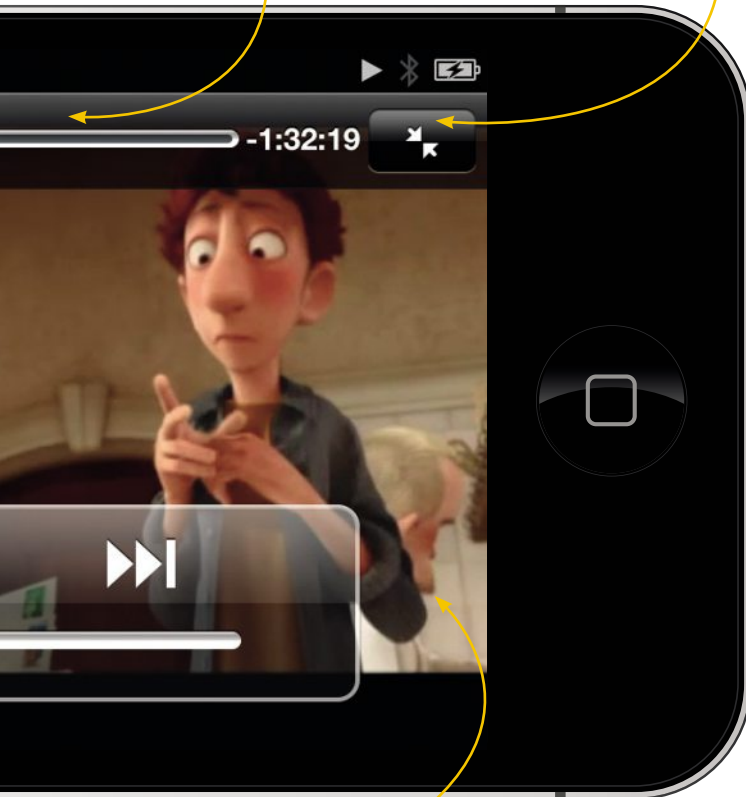


BROWSING THE IPAD VIDEO LIBRARY

The Library splits any videos on your system into Movies and TV, with a special tab for 'Shared' if you have Home Sharing running. Videos you purchase will have an image representing them. For your own, you can set a Poster Frame in iTunes.

USE THIS BAR TO SKIP TO ANY POINT IN YOUR VIDEO. IF YOU TAP ON THE HANDLE AND DRAG FURTHER DOWN THE SCREEN, IT SCROLLS MORE SLOWLY

IF YOUR VIDEO LEAVES BARS AT THE TOP AND BOTTOM OF THE iPad, TAP HERE TO FORCE IT TO FILL UP THE SCREEN



IT'S NOT JUST ABOUT MOVIES. THIS APP ALSO HANDLES TV SHOWS AND ANY VIDEO PODCASTS YOU DOWNLOAD

SKIPPING AHEAD WITH CHAPTERS

Most movies you'll watch on your iPad will be one linear file. Sometimes though, you'll find them broken into chapters like a DVD. If so, you'll be given an extra tab when you open the movie before playback that lists them, along with thumbnails. Tap one to jump in.



Movie magic

Easy ways to improve your viewing experience

While playing a movie is as easy as tapping an icon, occasionally you might find a stumbling block with non-iTunes material, or mid-way through an epic viewing session. Here are five easy ways to get you through the entire *Lord of the Rings* saga, keep you shouting hurra for Hollywood, and even find a few (legal) online films you never knew you had access to. None requires any technical knowledge, though a couple will help you avoid it. You may never need to use these, but you'll be glad of them if you do.

01 File format confusion

There are many types of video file, but MP4 is the one you'll usually use, and most online stores will specifically identify iPad-friendly files to avoid confusion. If you ever have to choose a codec while converting, go for h.264.

02 Getting TV out

You can connect your iPad to a TV in several different ways: with AirPlay if you have an Apple TV box, or via HDMI or Composite AV cables. HDMI is by far the best choice for modern HDTVs, using Apple's Digital AV Adapter.

03 Battery boosts

Airplane Mode isn't just for flying. If you're watching a movie and won't be hopping back and forth between apps every few minutes, you can save yourself a lot of battery life by switching it on. Just remember to turn it off afterwards.

04 Get more from YouTube

You can access at least some of YouTube's official free movies and TV content by logging in with Safari instead of the standard app. Unfortunately, not everything is playable. If you see an error about upgrading Flash, you're out of luck.

05 Monitoring space

If you use third-party players, remember that iTunes bundles them and all of the files you've synced to them under the heading 'Apps' rather than 'Video', so its chart of what's using your space becomes misleading.

GREAT MOVIE APPS

Tap into a whole new world of movies with these apps that will bring you a new library to watch, and innovative ways to improve your viewing experience

LOVEFiLM

Price **Free** Works with **iPad**



LOVEFiLM is the best of the movie streaming services currently available in the UK. It offers many more big-name recent films than any of the competition, and streaming is thrown in as a freebie with most of its packages. You can also subscribe to just online video for £4.99. There's a catch, though. The iPad app doesn't

give you everything that you can stream via the website on your Mac or PC. You still get a wide selection, though, and it includes the best quality stuff. For the moment, it's only here that you'll routinely open the app to be offered movies such as *The Dark Knight* or the complete *The Girl Who...* series, and the films the service gets are often impressive. In addition, while the video quality on the website varies from 'about acceptable' to 'shockingly bad', rest assured everything looks great on an iPad.



The curation in 'collections' is brilliant too, so it's easy to find something good.

Netflix

Price **Free** Works with **Everything**



This recently launched, streaming-only service is an impressive offering. Its app works extremely well, with several excellent touches – one of the best being that you can pick up a movie where you left off on another device. Unlike LOVEFiLM, its approach to curation is a personalised one. You tell it what kind of films you like, and it combines that with what you watch to suggest others of interest. In terms of media library, Netflix easily bests

LOVEFiLM in terms of television content, but falls far behind as far as big-name, recent movies go. Its back catalogue is very respectable, though, and browsing through it you're likely to find plenty that you want to watch.

It remains to be seen if Netflix can make the deals that will give it the best recent releases – though it's openly said that the cost of doing so means this isn't going to be its focus. It also has the disadvantage of having to split its attention across continents, while LOVEFiLM gets to focus all its time on the UK. They're stacking up to be worthy competitors though, and it should be an excellent fight.

AVPlayerHD

Price **£1.99** Works with **iPad (also on iPhone)**



The main reason to move away from Apple's default video app is to be able to play a wider range of files without having to convert them, and AVPlayer will handle just about anything you throw at it – short of files protected with DRM, of course. In addition to that, you get support for all the major subtitling formats and password protection for your movie library in the event that it contains things that are, um, unsuitable for prying eyes, shall we say. One excellent touch you don't usually see is a set of app-specific gestures. Need to go back 10 seconds? Just swipe left. Want to switch to 1.5x playback mode? Swipe up.

While the easiest way to add movies to the AVPlayer library is to use iTunes, you can download them over Wi-Fi if you have access to an FTP server. Unfortunately, DLNA support isn't provided, so no streaming from NAS.



BBC iPlayer

Price **Free** Works with **Everything**



iPlayer remains the video service to point media companies to and say, 'There. Do it like that.' They simply don't come much sleeker or easier to use, and it's completely free (well, covered by the licence fee for UK users). Specifically looking at its movies, you'll quickly spot the possible problem – a distinct lack of film content. This tends to change around holidays, though, with Christmas featuring more choice, and there's always plenty of TV to enjoy. Not everything that appears on the BBC makes it to streaming, but the majority of films do make the jump.



iPlayer supports subtitles and the ability to stop watching a film and resume it later. Beyond that, there are no real extra features for movie watching. As a pure film-watching tool, it's not a vital download. It's worth getting hold of anyway, though, both for your TV catch-up needs, and because some great films do pop up on it from time to time.

Air Video

Price **£1.99** Works with **Everything**



The Air Video app works alongside an app installed on your Mac or PC to stream your movies through the air.

The server can convert them into an iPad-friendly format in advance or on the fly as you request them. Either way, you're never more than a few seconds away from starting playback. The

server side is easy to set up. You can add any shared folder you like, as well as iTunes Playlists. Air Video can't convert protected files, but anything else is fair game. Once configured, it loads up automatically when you switch on your computer and sits silently in the background. Most of the time, the conversion process is automatic, but you can tweak a little. Advanced users with a fast connection can even stream their whole library over the internet and access it anywhere.

IMDb

Price **Free** Works with **Everything**



IMDb is already the best place to find out everything you need to know about your favourite movies, finding who was in what, or dazzling your friends with your grasp of trivia. This official app brings you all this in a tap-friendly environment, along with charts, recent best-sellers, critics' reviews, and user comments. Give it location information access, though, and it immediately becomes a much more personalised source of information. Tap the name of a new film for example and it gives you the current showtimes at your local cinemas. Tap its name, and you can bring up a map, phone number, and

what other films are showing that day (you can't order tickets, though).



zeebox

Price **Free** Works with **Everything**



Don't let the television branding fool you – zeebox works just as well for watching movies as your favourite programs. Tell it where you live and who provides your TV, and it gives you a complete list of every channel you have access to. In the UK, the biggest selection at any one time is going to be found on Sky. Tap any film and you bring up its full information, including info and credits, related links, and a selection of Zeetags (no, really) related to the movie – typically actors' names and very broad subject areas. You can also open a chat with anyone else you know who's watching it. The idea is solid, though can't help but feel slightly antiquated in an era of DVRs and time-shifting, and films with vague names can get some information wrong. If you have friends using it, it's not a bad way to make sitting alone in your living room a little more social, even if IMDb is a better source of info.



AirPlay & Air Video

The joy of streaming video to anywhere

AirPlay and Air Video are two different technologies for streaming video around using Wi-Fi instead of moving files. AirPlay is Apple's own technology, and is currently restricted to a handful of devices. As far as movies are concerned, the most important is the Apple TV. Using AirPlay, you can stream movies to a big screen – and, with the iPad 2 and iPhone 4GS, mirror anything on their displays.

Air Video is a third-party tool, but arguably even more useful. It comes in two parts – a video server that you install on your PC or Mac, and an iPad app. You point the server to files on your desktop or network and it runs in the background whenever the machine is on, waiting for instructions. Pick up the iPad and you can stream any movie it knows about. The best part, though, is that unlike doing this with Home Sharing, you don't have to care about file formats – Air Video can use the power of your desktop to transcode almost anything on the fly into an iPad-friendly format. The only real exceptions are DRM-encumbered files, which it can't access. Provided you have a decent connection on both sides, you can even configure this to stream you movies over the internet as well as your own network. As long as you don't mind leaving your machine on all the time, your entire movie could be accessible from anywhere in the world.

MOVIE TRIVIA

Beyond the film

A few tools to help you get more out of movies

Even when you're watching movies on TV rather than your iPad, there are good reasons to keep your tablet nearby. Suddenly had one of those 'what have I seen that guy in' moments? Fire up the IMDb app and you'll be able to find the name and filmography in seconds. Or how about when a piece of music catches your attention? Download Shazam, let it listen for a few seconds, and get its

name, artist info and iTunes link immediately. For a more social experience in the UK, try zeebox. Pick your region and TV service provider, and it tracks what you're watching and makes it easy for friends to virtually watch live films along with you. The US equivalent, IntoNow, works on similar lines, but register via your iPad and it shows stats and tweets from people related to what you're watching.

going out with your iPhone

Whether it's a big night out or a quiet meal, your iPhone is the best friend you could take with you, as Will Head explains

➤ If you're planning a big night out, then the first thing you should reach for is your iPhone. In addition to its basic communication functions, by loading it up with the right apps, it can help you with all aspects of entertainment planning.

It will not only help you round up your mates, but also assist in the complicated matter of finding a mutually agreeable time and date for everyone. It can also help find you somewhere to go and something to do, whether you're looking for a huge night out, something a little more sedate or are just happy to go with the flow and see where you end up.

But its talents don't stop there. When you're out and about, your iPhone can help both to keep you safe and keep you entertained. There are apps to help friends and loved ones know where you are at all times. If the conversation ever reaches a lull – or you need to settle an argument – help is just a couple of taps away. There are even apps that will stop you misbehaving when you've had one too many, and to make sure you're sober enough to text that special someone.

Thanks to the combination of always-on internet connection and GPS location, the iPhone even opens up a whole new world of apps that weren't previously possible. These let you check in to specific locations and earn rewards for loyalty, but they also let you see what your friends are up to and where they recommend going – or even in some cases, find out that they're actually at the very same place as you.

Once you're ready to head home, your iPhone's work is still not done. There are apps to help guide you safely home and make your journey as pain-free as possible. The only thing it can't help you with is your hangover! ➤

Arranging to meet up

The first thing you need for the ultimate night out is some people – ideally ones that you know and like. You could, of course, jump straight into the phone app and start calling, but that all feels a little bit 1990s. It's also not exactly time efficient – you'll have to spend a good five minutes per call on idle chat before you can jump to the actual purpose you're ringing for. Head over to Messages instead and you can tap out your enquiry and dispense with the pleasantries.

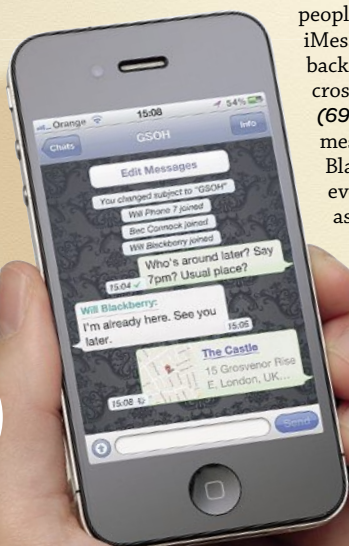
Of course, if you're still friends with people that don't have iPhones, iMessage won't work and it will fall back to text message. Instead, try the cross-handset **WhatsApp Messenger (69p)**. This app lets you send free messages between iPhone, Android, BlackBerry, Windows Phone 7 and even Nokia handsets. What's more, as well as sharing plain old text, you can send your location, which makes meeting up with people that are lost much easier.

If you're only dealing with a couple of people, then keeping track of who's coming is pretty simple – but add more than five and it becomes unmanageable. Facebook's Event function makes it

easy to keep tabs on who's coming. While there isn't a way to create a new event in the **Facebook (Free)** app, if you jump over to Safari you can set one up there. Once that's done, you can go retreat back to the safety of app land and see how popular your event is as the RSVPs flood in. Of course, this is only an option if all the people you're planning on inviting are on Facebook. Unfortunately, everyone has a friend that's morally opposed to Facebook and refuses to open an account, and occasionally you have to arrange to meet them. For times like these, calendar requests are the solution. Unless your iPhone calendar account is hosted on Microsoft Exchange, however, you won't be able to send them. But there is, of course, a third-party app solution, this time in the form of **iNvite (Free)**. Simply fill in the details of the event as you would a normal calendar entry, and then add the email address of each recipient. They can then reply with a yay or nay.

In addition to deciding who you want to meet up with, you need to settle on when. Managing just your own diary can be problematic enough, but once you add in other people's schedules, nailing it down to a time and date can be high-on impossible. This is where **Doodle for iPhone (£1.99)** steps in. It's a free web service designed to make finding a convenient time to meet up really simple. The app is a bit pricey, but it's very slick and easy to use. Give the event a name, fill in the details and choose a range of dates and times. Participants can then vote on their preferred one and you can schedule the event safe in the knowledge you took on everyone's input before ignoring it and picking the best time for you.

WhatsApp Messenger lets you send free messages to users on any smartphone.



SAVE BATTERY

TAKE CHARGE OF YOUR GPS

GPS brings many new shiny features to your iPhone, but it's also a relentless battery killer

The iPhone may not have the best battery life in the world, but you'd still expect to get at a day's use out of it before it finally conks out. That is, unless you're hammering the GPS connection, which will see your battery deplete at an alarming rate. Try running a sat-nav app and you're looking at using up 10 percent of your battery every 20 minutes, meaning that a full charge will, at best, only last just over three hours with GPS running full pelt. Even for the tamest nights out, you'd probably expect to be out of the house for longer than the director's cut of *Dances With Wolves*.

But there are some things you can do to eke out every last bit of battery life while still making use of location-based services. Never leave any app that uses GPS open when you lock your iPhone screen – instead press **⏏** first. This will stop most apps idly using GPS and running down your battery when they really don't need to. You can tell if an app is using GPS because the compass symbol **🧭** appears in the status bar to the left of the battery.

Even being this diligent, there are still some apps that will continue to use GPS in the background. If you definitely don't need an app to know



GPS is great if you get lost, but it can drain your battery in no time if you leave it running. where you are, then prevent it from using GPS completely. This not only stops it running down your battery but also improves your privacy. Simply open Settings, tap Location Services and toggle which apps are allowed to access your location – you might be surprised at how many want to.

Finding somewhere to go

You've worked out who's coming and what time everyone needs to get there – the next step is to pick what to do. Whatever it is you fancy, the iPhone has an app to help you narrow down your choices, whether it's catching a movie, having a meal, seeing the newest bands or even finding new things you've never thought of doing before.

If you're looking for a bite to eat, then the two big players are **OpenTable (Free)** and **toptable (Free)**. They both let you find restaurants nearby and book a table straight from the app. If you think the results look startlingly similar, then it's because UK-based toptable was purchased by US-owned OpenTable a couple of years ago. However, there's one very good reason to choose toptable – the offers. If you're on the lookout for a deal, hit the Offers tab and you can browse discounts available.

If your idea of a three-course meal is a popcorn starter, hotdogs, and pick and mix washed down with a dash of Coke, then **Flixster (Free)** is your ideal date for the evening. It will give you the low down on the latest Hollywood blockbusters and where they're showing nearby, so you can whittle



human life. You can choose different layers (see what they did there?) of information, covering everything from restaurants to Tube stations.

Make sure you get a table in the very best restaurants with the likes of toptable.

Whether you want to catch a movie or see the newest bands, there are great apps to help

down the choices. And don't forget if you're an Orange customer, download the **Orange Wednesdays (Free)** app. This will get you two-for-one cinema tickets.

If live music is more your sort of thing, then **SongKick (Free)** is the go-to app. It'll keep you up to date on when your favourite artists are touring, and it scans your music library so it knows what you like. It'll show you an upcoming lists of gigs nearby and you can then add them to your list and even book tickets. If you'd rather throw some shapes on the dance floor instead, while an overpaid celebrity hits the play button on a playlist on their iPhone, the confusingly concatenated **Clubbillboard (Free)** is a club rep in app form. You can browse the featured club nights or drill down by date or location to find the perfect party.

All of the options so far are fine if you know exactly what you want to do, but if you're looking for more of a serendipitous experience, then **Layar (Free)** will show you what's around you right now, with an added drop of *Minority Report*. By using the compass and GPS in your iPhone, Layar will overlay information on the camera view, giving you your own personal heads-up display. It's a bit like being the Terminator, except without the total disregard for the sanctity of

Staying safe

So you now have the time and the place, but how do you make sure that nothing untoward happens on your night out? Well, first thing is to make sure someone knows where you are at all times. You could phone in your location every 20 minutes, but there's a more cutting-edge solution.

Google Latitude (Free) lets you share your location with your friends so you can keep track of where they are, and vice versa. It can update your location in the background, so you just need to set it and forget it, and your most trusted friends will know where you are at any given time. You can also easily turn it off, for times when you want to disappear off the grid for a while. **Find My Friends (Free)** is Apple's equivalent offering, although for some reason someone dressed the app up in faux-leather cowboy hand-me-downs before sending it out the door. Both apps require a huge degree of trust on both sides, so only share them with people you're happy to know exactly where you are any time of the day or night.

After keeping yourself safe, your next priority should be the expensive slab of glass in your hand. Apple's **Find My iPhone (Free)** service isn't undefeatable by any means, but it will at least give you a fighting chance of getting your phone back if someone nabs it while you're not looking. If the worst has happened, use this app on someone else's iPhone to log in with your Apple ID. You can then try to locate the device or send a message to it. If you've got information on it that you don't want others to see, you can even wipe it remotely so that your data can't be accessed.

After a long night out, the one thing you don't want is to find yourself out of cash with no way to get home. With that in mind, **CashFinder** >



Your iPhone can help you stay safe, so all you need to worry about is having fun.

20

(£1.99) will find the closest cash machine to your location so you can make sure you're not left penniless. It can even tell you which machines charge a fee. Finally, it'll even lead you straight to the machine in question, either sending directions to the built in Maps application or to a sat-nav app such as CoPilot or TomTom, if you have one installed your iPhone.

Another essential installation if you're going to be out after dark is a flashlight app to turn your iPhone into a torch. **Torch for iPhone 4 & 4S** (69p) may be more expensive than the freebie rivals, but it's one of the fastest to start up, which could be a life saver. It turns on the camera LED, so you can easily light your way, and there's even a Morse code button for tapping out distress signals. There's also a handy slide-down cover to stop you turning the light off with accidental screen swipes (any torch app has to switch off the light when you lock the screen or press).

Let me Entertain You

Of course, your iPhone is great at rounding everybody up and getting them to the venue, but its uses on a great night out don't stop there. Firstly there's the panicked realisation that you've forgotten to set *Dancing on Ice* to record just as you're getting ready to perform your own moves that could outshine the has-been celebrity stock. Fear not – if you're a **Sky+** (Free) or **Virgin Media TV Guide** (Free) owner, you just need to download the appropriate app, link it up to your online account and you can remotely record to your heart's content. The command will be sent directly to your set-top box, so it'll be there for you to watch the next day when you're recovering from the night before.

The smoking ban may have curbed the number of people that hold their lighters in the air at concerts, but just because indoor lighting up is now banned doesn't mean a tradition should die out. The **Virtual Zippo Lighter** (Free) gives you an

impressive representation of a real-world item, but without the danger of burning your fingers. It'll sway realistically in the wind, and you can even customise the look and paint job to make it uniquely yours.

If you find the conversation dries up at any point down the pub, then you can suggest an impromptu singalong session with the **Glee Karaoke** (Free) app. It provides plenty of tracks in the library to sing along to, but you have to pay for each one with tokens. You get 100 to start with, which is enough for a cheaper song, but after that you need to buy or earn extras to carry on making selections. The best bit, however, is that it includes Auto-Tune, so unless you're particularly bad at singing, this app will make you sound like a chart sensation.

Another app you should pre-load onto your iPhone ahead of any night out is **Wikipedia Mobile** (Free). When the point comes when the conversation turns to ridiculous statements made without any basis in fact – like whether Ronnie Hazlehurst, composer of the *Last of the Summer Wine* theme, also penned S Club 7's seminal 2000 hit *Reach* (he did not) – you can prove them instantly wrong and prevent any further unnecessary debate. No one will thank you in person, but they'll all secretly be grateful.

There is one big problem with taking an iPhone out with you on a night out – the more you drink, the bigger the temptation to contact someone inappropriate. Exes, secret crushes, old teachers you thought were hot back in the day – people you're only able to communicate safely with when

☝ foursquare rewards users with badges if they check in to locations often enough ☝

100% sober. **Textalyzer** (69p) to the rescue! This app will prevent you texting until you've passed a series of mental and physical tests. Simply flag contacts before you go out, add three reasons why it's not a good idea to text them, and you're good to go. When the urge hits, Textalyzer will then make you perform the tests, while reminding you of the reasons it's not a good idea to contact them in between each one. If you pass the challenges, then you're (probably) sober enough to text. If not, then it's best left for another day.

Finally, if there's any better use of technology than using it to order a takeaway on your way home so it arrives just as you get to your front door, we've yet to see it. The **Domino's Pizza** (Free) app lets you create your dream pizza by dragging and dropping toppings on the screen, and then you can order it straight from the app, ready for delivery.

PREVENT LOSS

iPhone INSURANCE

Some people may be interested in your iPhone when you're out – some a little too interested...

If you got your handset free on a hefty monthly contract, it's easy to forget that it's an expensive piece of kit that could cost up to £700 to replace. And should your phone go walkabout, if you're only a couple of months into a long contract, the depressing fact is that you'll still have to stump up the monthly payments even if you've no longer got an iPhone to show for it. Networks don't give you a shiny new handset because they're nice – they plan to make the cost of the handset back over the course of the contract. This means making you stick to your monthly payments, no matter the

excuse. So you should always make sure your handset is insured.

Most networks offer insurance, but it's quite expensive. Still cheaper than a whole new handset, but at £10 – £15 per month, it could be an extra £360 over the length of the contract. Specialist third-party insurers will usually offer you a better deal. Protect Your Bubble (uk.protectyourbubble.com) could be an option – it will cover you for just £5.99 per month.

Before you take out dedicated cover, it's worth checking whether your iPhone is covered by your home contents insurance. Most policies



Get insured, in case you're not the one who takes your iPhone from your pocket...

include basic cover as standard, but you're probably limited to a maximum claim of £200 – £300 for unnamed items. You can also add your phone as a named item, and some insurers will cover this for no additional premium while others will only charge a nominal fee. Some bank accounts also offer mobile phone insurance as a premium option. Be sure to check this out too.

Location, location, location-based social networks

With its built-in GPS sensor so it can pinpoint your precise location on the earth, the iPhone has opened up a whole new category of apps that let you share your location with your friends and acquaintances. Because you can't fool the GPS, apps can offer rewards to people that go to a particular place most often. The current king of the location-based app game is **foursquare** (**Free**), which rewards users with badges and mayorships if they check in at locations enough. Turning checking in into a game, so you win or defend the mayorship, makes people do it. It's only when enough people you know are using it that the service actually becomes useful.

If you're out and you want to know where to go next, just check the map and see where most of your friends are congregating. You can also see if people are at the same gig or event as you. It creates a whole new method of connecting with people, and it's very much about being in the right place at the right time.

Facebook lets you check into locations too, and other apps are also adding location features to their roster. Both **Gype** (**Free**) and **Yelp** (**Free**) offer user-generated reviews of pubs, clubs and other venues, but they've added check in facilities so you can see who's at the same place as you or nearby. You can't expect these location services to pay off immediately – if you only know a handful of people on them, then the chances of your paths crossing are minimal. But make checking in at a location when you arrive second nature, add a few people you know and further down the line it will pay off.

Getting home

So you've had a great night out. It's now time to get yourself home, and as you might expect, your iPhone's work is not yet done. If you're in the capital, you're spoiled for choice for transport apps. If you've made it out of the pub before the last Tube train goes, **London Tube by Embark** (**Free**) is a beautifully designed app that will help you navigate the Underground. It's a really helpful app whether you're just visiting the capital for the weekend or are simply too, uh, 'tired' to remember your route home.

Leave it too late and you'll be needing a bus. This inevitably involves waiting in the cold for three clichés to come along at once. Slap the **BusMate** (**69p**) app on your iPhone, however, and you can wait in the warm somewhere nearby until your bus arrives. Not only will it tell you where the nearest stop is, but it uses live GPS bus data to work out when your bus will arrive. You can then set a reminder and it will tell you when you need to go to the stop to catch the right bus. No more guess work.

If you want the fastest way to your bed, then a taxi is often the best option. Instead of trying to flag one down or find a minicab office, get **Call a Taxi** (**£1.49**) to do the hard work for you. It'll bring back a list of cab offices closest to where you are, and you can call one straight from the app, so you'll be on your way home in comfort before you know it – hopefully just in time for when your pizza arrives.

With Call a Taxi, you can easily find a taxi company to get you on the way home.



STEP-UP HEADPHONES

Are you still using the white earbuds that came with your iPhone or iPod? For the love of Lennon, stop that at once! Happily, you can get much better buds at a bargain price

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WHAT WE TESTED...

AKG K 350
£59

Audio-Technica
ATH-CKS55i £62

House of Marley
Freedom £55

JVC HA-KX100-B
£39

Philips O'Neill
The Tread £45



Time was that a pair of snow-white earbuds nestling in your lugholes was a mark of distinction. It announced to the world that you were the proud owner of one o' them fancy new Apple I-Pods and shouted, "Look at me! I have loads of music in my pocket, on a paradigm-shifting digital device, and I am therefore awesome!" Sadly the cool factor quickly diminished when it became apparent that a pair of iPod earphones also served as an excellent means of attracting the attention of

footpads and ne'er-do-wells, who ensure that you were quickly relieved of said device.

Those were the days. Fast forward to the present day and who'd be seen wearing Apple headphones? Let's face it, they're awful. The only time it's acceptable to use your Apple headphones is when you first buy an iOS device and simply don't know any better. So then you realise that you want to go out and buy something that's less ghastly. But what?

You're not an audiophile and you don't want to spend a fortune. You just want a pair

that don't sound appalling and that you can pick up in town on your lunch break, right? Right.

So where to begin? We've done all the hard work for you, selecting a cross-section of 'step-up' headphones and subjected them to rigorous tests. They've had an enormous range of music played through them, they've been given a solid appraisal of how they cope with the business of making phone calls, and they've had their design and features thoroughly scrutinised. All that remains is for you to read on to discover which ones you should get... ➤

GIVE YOUR WHITE APPLE BUDS TO SOMEONE WHO DOESN'T KNOW BETTER, AND UPGRADE TO BETTER SOUND



HOW WE SELECTED...

➤ Our criteria were simple: we went looking for the sort of in-ear headphones you'd find in HMV or Currys on your lunch break, having just stamped on your Apple ones in a fit of audio rage. We avoided brands that we've covered a lot before, and looked at a price range from £25 to £70.

TEST ONE

PLAYING MUSIC

Tuned using reggae as a benchmark, the House of Marley Freedom: Redemption Song packs a lot of bass. Which is lovely when you're banging out some roots, or perhaps a bit of dubstep. But when you're listening to something that leans more towards the upper reaches of the audio spectrum, the results can be surprising at times. We found ourselves hearing rich bass undertones in songs where we'd never noticed them before; nothing especially overpowering, though. Ultimately, a big and deep sound, not too boomy and with bright treble that we kept coming back to.

Which isn't something you can really say about the JVC HA-KX100-B. They have these weeny little drivers that sit right up at the tip of the earbuds, we'd guess with the idea that a smaller driver deeper in the ear will sound as good as, if not better than, a larger driver with less reach. It's a nice

idea that doesn't really work. We found them lacking both in volume and tone, particularly in the bass department. If your tastes run to the gentler, more acoustic end of the scale, or if you simply don't dig loud noises, then you might get on okay with them. But on the whole they're pretty flat-sounding.

💧 We heard rich bass undertones in songs where we'd never even noticed them before 💧

Audio-Technica's ATH-CKS55i headphones look a bit strange, thanks to a special sub-chamber mechanism, consisting of a pair of air chambers and an acoustic resistor designed to create rich, textured bass. It's a neat setup that delivers a textured sound right across the range. They're on the airy, resonant side but pack a wallop at the upper and lower extremities.

We were pleasantly surprised by the Philips O'Neill Treads. We found they packed enough bass to keep us happy no matter what we threw at them, and delivered a pleasingly balanced overall sound. Sadly, the AKG K350 set wasn't quite so pleasing. They're ultra-lightweight and deliver a sound to match, with lots and lots of top end that peters out in the midrange and rather gives up the ghost as it approaches the bassline. They're another pair that benefit from a good deep fit and a decent seal to block out external noise. But even when you've tried found a decent fit, you're still left with a comparatively weedy sound.

HOW DID THEY SCORE?

AKG K 350	★★★★
Audio-Technica ATH-CKS55i	★★★★★
House of Marley Freedom	★★★★★
JVC HA-KX100-B	★★★★
Philips O'Neill The Tread	★★★★

TEST TWO

MAKING CALLS

All of these headphones have remotes with built-in microphones for making hands-free calls. As a test, we stood next to a noisy cooker and left identical, same volume messages to ourselves. Only the Marleys gave us slight cause for concern, since their microphone remote is below the Y-branch of the cable – further down than the rest of the headphones, whose mics all sit around jaw level. Special mention goes to the Treads, featuring a remote before the Y-branch, and a separate mic at jaw level. In the absence of any noticeable variation in call quality, it means the Treads win this round on the basis of that pleasing little touch.

HOW DID THEY SCORE?

AKG K 350	★★★★
Audio-Technica ATH-CKS55i	★★★★★
House of Marley Freedom	★★★★
JVC HA-KX100-B	★★★★
Philips O'Neill The Tread	★★★★

TEST THREE

DESIGN & FEATURES

House of Marley wins this round hands down. Open the cardboard packaging and you'll find a pair of headphones made from eco-friendly materials that look fantastic. Our favourite bit is the woven cable. It doesn't snag or get tangled, and it feels delightful. You also get a choice of five pairs of ear tips and a wonderful little fabric and leather carrying pouch.

The Audio-Technica pouch isn't as nice: just a drawstring bag. But the earphones themselves draw the attention. Their size and shape make for a snug fit that does a grand job of eliminating outside noise.

The JVCs, too, are a peculiar shape, with arms sticking out of the earbuds. They're there to assure an optimum fit in quite a minimalist way. Pop the bud into your ear and wedge the arm down, and you should have a nice, secure fit that has these babies sounding their very best. Which isn't really that good, but bless them for trying. The AKG K 350 (pictured here in blue and black, but in the shops

you'll find them to be black and white) make a point of weighing next to nothing. But it's just not a nice lightweightness, and instead, they feel rather cheap and plastic. It has to be said, we're not keen.

However, the Treads are super; they're built for toughness with reinforced earphones and a woven, Kevlar-reinforced cable – they're made to be trodden on and yanked without ill effect. They're so tough they don't come with a case – it would have been nice to have the option, though. Also, we're not all that taken by the volume slider on the remote, which doesn't actually change the volume, rather just the amount of noise that gets through to your ears.

HOW DID THEY SCORE?

AKG K 350	★★★
Audio-Technica ATH-CKS55i	★★★★★
House of Marley Freedom	★★★★★
JVC HA-KX100-B	★★★★
Philips O'Neill The Tread	★★★★



	AKG K 350	Audio-Technica ATH-CKS55i	House of Marley Freedom	JVC HA- KX100-B	Philips O'Neill The Tread
Final score	★★★ ●	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★ ●	★★★★ ●
Price	£59	£62	£55	£39	£45
Manufacturer	uk.akg.com	audiotechnicashop.com	thehouseofmarley.com	jvc.co.uk	philips.co.uk
Frequency response	12Hz – 23.5kHz	5Hz – 24kHz	10Hz – 22kHz	10Hz – 24kHz	6Hz – 23.5kHz
Sensitivity	121dB	105dB	101dB	103dB	105dB
Impedance	16 ohms	16 ohms	16 ohms	16 ohms	16 ohms
Cable length	1m	1.2m	1.32m	1m	1.2m
Connector style	Straight	L-shaped	L-shaped	Straight	Straight
Weight	3g	6g	4g	3.8g without cable	6g

And the winner is...

House of Marley Freedom: Redemption Song £55

Is This Love? When headphones look and sound this good, the answer is yes

You have no idea how long we agonised over this one. We narrowed our choice down to either the Marleys or the Audio-Technicas, but choosing between the two took us an age of testing. They both provide a well-rounded sound; the Marleys are crisper while the ATH-CKS55i's special air-chambers' sound makes them sound bigger and brighter, though not as well defined in the upper ranges.

The fact is, we'd be perfectly happy listening to either, but the Marleys win by the barest of margins on the basis of the entire package. The Audio-Technicas are entirely splendid with their chunky earphones at the end of a serious-feeling cable, but on

balance we like the Marleys just that bit more. It's things like the recycled packaging that you can open without cutting yourself, the huge choice of ear tips and the fabric pouch.

They feel designed rather than engineered, with a

🔊 They look and sound fantastic – and that's what clinches it 🎧

wood (FSC certified, of course) and lightweight aluminium casing that looks extremely pretty. A House of Marley logo on the forward-facing edge is the only indicator for the left and right earphones; easier to spot than a tiny little L or R on the casing.

We were surprised to find a milled edge on the aluminium; not a feature you'd expect to find on something you stick in your ears, but nevertheless they were perfectly comfortable.

It's maybe a small thing, but what we like most about them is the woven cable. It's a feature they share with the tough little Philips O'Neill Treads, a pair that you should definitely consider if your budget's limited or want headphones that will withstand some rough and tumble. Who'd have thought that wrapping the cable in fabric would make such a difference? But it creates a bit of weight that makes it hang nicely, rather than coil up and bounce around when you're on the



move. If you've ever been late for work untangling a set of lightweight headphones, you'll love how these unroll no matter how scrunched up they are. Then when you put them in, they look and sound fantastic – attractive and striking without being ostentatious. That's a winner for us. **JM**

Tap! VERDICT

"Striking looks, eco-friendly materials, thoughtful design and rivers of bass."



RUGGED CASES

for iPad

The best cases to keep your iPad prepared for the worst

COMPLETE WITH A SNAP-ON SCREEN PROTECTOR, THIS TYRE-PRINT DESIGN WILL PROTECT AND SERVE

GUMDROP DROP TECH iPad 2

Price £30 URL gumdropcases.com Works with iPad 2

► Gumdrop's multi-layered case redefines ruggedness without hindering access. A taut polycarbonate shell is encased in thick rubberised silicone, so sudden shocks are absorbed across the outer body. A snap-on screen protector seals in your tech, capping the hardcore feel.



Tap!
EDITOR'S
CHOICE!



G-FORM EXTREME SLEEVE

Price £49 URL g-form.com

Works with iPad 1/iPad 2

► Wrought from proprietary water-resistant materials, G-Form's zipped offering may look odd, but for pure protection it can't be bettered. Soft, flexible, and lightweight, it envelops your iPad completely. The only snag is you have to take it out of the case to use it.



INCIPIO DESTROYER

Price £36 URL myincipio.com Works with iPad 1

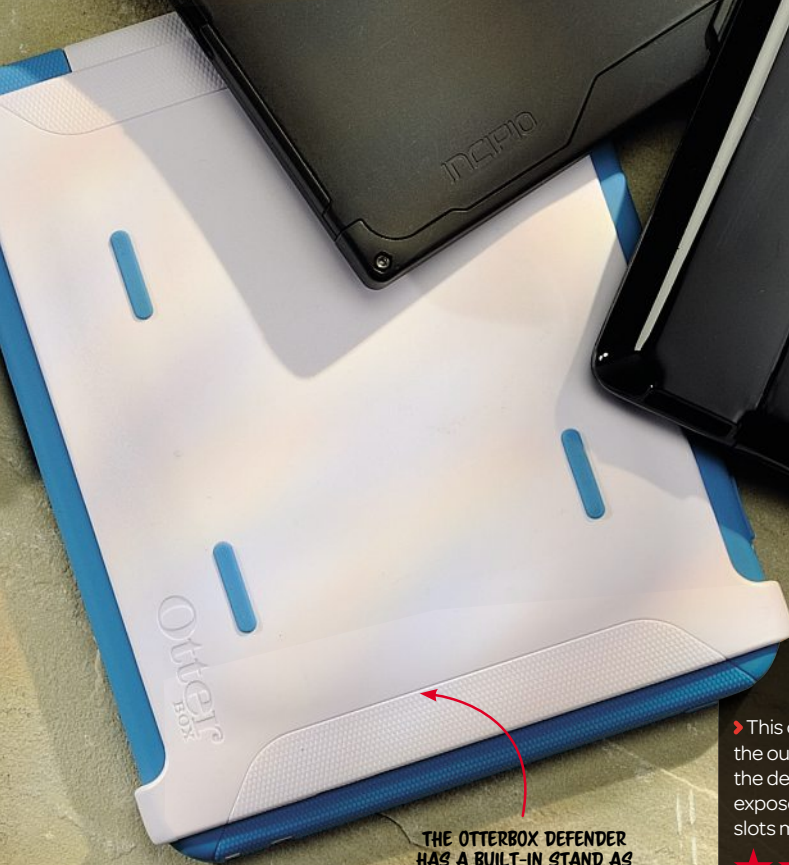
► The Destroyer boasts a silicone core and a strong outer shell, offering good protection at the back and corners without obstructing access. Reinforced side rails hold your iPad in place firmly. But once it's in, it's in – unless you've got the supplied Allen key handy.



SPECK CANDYSHELL WRAP FOR iPad 2

Price £35 URL speckproducts.com
Works with iPad 2

► Speck marries a plastic outer shell with a rubberised inner lining, but what it lacks in sheer ruggedness it makes up for in functionality. The flip-close cover doubles as a neat viewing and typing stand, while a flip-back panel offers dock and keyboard connector access on the fly.

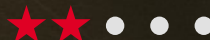


THE OTTERBOX DEFENDER HAS A BUILT-IN STAND AS PART OF ITS DETACHABLE SCREEN PROTECTOR

OTTERBOX iPad 2 DEFENDER

Price £42 URL otterbox.com Works with iPad 2

► This case has a decent hard inner shell, but most of the outer silicone covers the back of the iPad, making the detachable screen protector (with built-in stand) exposed to shock. Too many tension clips and retaining slots make disassembly a fiddly, protracted affair. **TH**







saving money

Which apps can deliver the best savings, both online and on the high street? Nik Rawlinson hits the sales to find out

▶ Nothing is getting any cheaper. The Retail Prices Index, published monthly by the Office for National Statistics, compares a basket of typical products to work out how quickly prices are rising. The latest figures, which cover November 2011, saw the price of those products climb 5.2%. If you didn't get a pay rise of the same amount, you're poorer now than you were back then. Our money has to work harder today than ever before, and we often feel as though we have a duty to save as much as we possibly can.

That's where **Tap!** can help. We've picked out the top 10 money-saving apps ready for download from the App Store. All but two are free, so you can bag the lot for just less than three quid. That's your first step on the road to better money management and fighting back against inflation.

Of course, to take advantage of them you'll need an iPhone, iPod touch

or iPad to hand, and there is a certain irony in using so pricey a gadget to save a few pounds here and there. But that's somewhat missing the point. You already have an iOS device, or you're thinking of buying one, so think of this not as an opportunity to spend more, but to offset the cost of your investment. Make your iPhone pay for itself!

Don't forget, either, that there's a hidden saving to make in the shape of reclaimed time. Apps like RedLaser mean it's no

longer necessary to walk the length of the high street looking for something cheaper; MyGas pinpoints the closest petrol station, saving you a drive, while Skyscanner sidesteps frustrating, wasted, evenings trawling the bucket-shop holiday sites. You'll be free to enjoy yourself on a cheap night out, courtesy of vouchercloud, or a long free chat on Skype.

The savings are there to be made, so follow our guide, pick up these apps, and you'll find the cheaper path! ▶

HOW WE TESTED...

Finding you the best deal

▶ In compiling this feature we downloaded each of the apps reviewed and tested them with real-world shopping examples. We always kept at the front of our minds one simple question: which could deliver the biggest savings in the shortest time and with the least amount of hassle for you. Only the most useful apps made it!

We didn't want to limit our investigation only to simple shopping tools, so we've included petrol price monitors that cut the cost of driving, barcode scanners that turn your high street into a live, physical search engine, and flexible travel planners that can potentially cut the cost of a business or family break if you use them often.



Skype

Get international calls at local rates thanks to the wonder of making phone calls over the internet

Price **Free** Works with **All iOS devices**



The internet's best-known phone service was recently snapped up by Microsoft. Not that it makes any difference – it's still one of the best-value ways of keeping in touch with friends and family. That's doubly true if you're travelling, when you can use Skype over a Wi-Fi network to chat for free with any Skype member, on their smartphone, tablet, Mac or PC.

The Skype client itself is free, and there are no charges to speak to other members, so long as they're using a client app. You can even video chat without resorting to FaceTime, so long as you only want to do one-on-one. As is often the case, though, by spending a little you can save a lot, through bolting on some optional features.

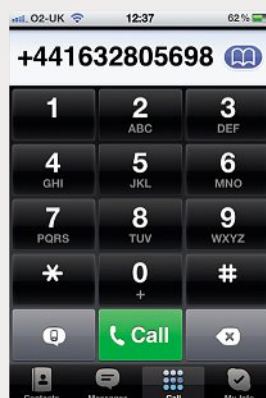
For starters, add some credit to your account and

you can call regular landline and mobile phones. Because each call is routed largely over the internet and only hops onto the regular phone network close to its destination wherever possible, you'll pay close to local rates for international calls. Need to pitch for a job in Australia? It'll be 0.8p a minute on a subscription (1.2 cents for US users), or 1.6p (2.3 cents) a minute on pay as you go. Travelling through Thailand and need

By spending a little you can save a lot with Skype

to call home? No problem – talk for as long as you like at the same rates and you'll sidestep your mobile operator's high rates for international roaming.

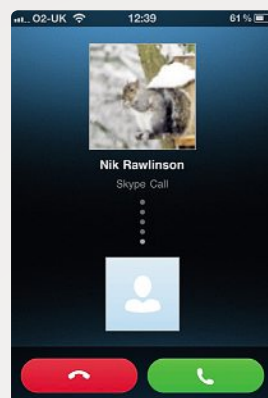
If you want people to be able to call you from their



There's nothing new to learn with Skype: it works like a phone.

regular phones then you'll need an Online Number. This service, which assigns you a geographically located landline replacement (previously called Skypeln), significantly undercuts regular landline rates, at £11.50 per quarter, or £40.25 for the year. Both prices include VAT and voicemail.

There's a hidden benefit in that while Online Numbers are available in 23 countries, you're not restricted to choosing a number in the country where you live. So if your job is sending you to Mexico, you can still buy an Online Number back home so friends and family can call you at local rates when you're on the opposite side



Call other Skype members and you can chat for free.

of the world. Or, if you want to give your business an international flavour, register numbers in one territory and set up office in another.

There are some downsides. If you want to video chat with more than one person you'll need Skype Premium, which costs £4.99 a month (the best deals are 12-month subscriptions). There's no emergency calling either, but since this is free from your iPhone on your regular contract, it's not an issue.

There are other providers of VoIP (Voice over Internet Protocol) services, but for our money Skype is both the simplest and the most versatile option around.

NETWORK OPERATOR DEALS

Contractual payouts

It's all very well picking out the very best of the App Store to deliver savings, but don't forget the deals that many people have bundled into their network contract. Orange has long offered two-for-one cinema tickets on Wednesday nights throughout the UK to any customers who text FILM to 241, though there's now an Orange Wednesdays app on the App Store to make it as easy as possible – bonus!

Better yet, the deal has been extended to include two-for-one pizzas with free dough balls or garlic bread at Pizza Express.

O2 offers tiered rewards, depending on how much you're paying each month. If you've been a subscriber for more than two years, you can claim a free router and six months of home broadband, whatever you pay, while the company's sponsorship of venues and sports teams means it



Check your network's website for deals tied to your contract.

bags priority tickets for its subscribers up to 48 hours before the general public. There's also the O2 Priority Moments app, offering discounts as many retailers.

Vodafone offers Rewardz, through which you can grab an instant gift from the likes of Blockbuster, or save up your points for bowling trips and iPods.

vouchercloud

On-screen codes that deliver real-world discounts **Price Free Works with iPhone, iPod touch**



Our parents used to cut discount tokens from newspapers, but

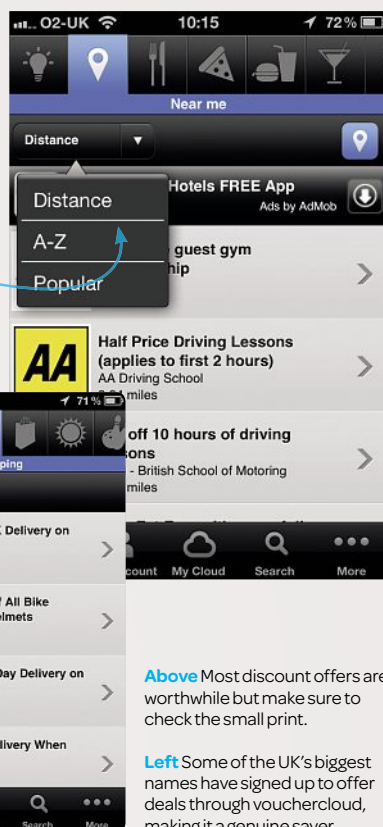
vouchercloud is the 21st century alternative. Offers are split into categories, so you can quickly filter out cinemas and entertainment if all you want to do is grab a pizza, or zero in on leisure if you want a weekend away.

Most of the offers are genuine, worthy savers. At the time of writing, we could have saved ourselves a healthy 10% at Argos, £50 off 10 hours of driving lessons, or landed a free five-day pass to our local gym.

Be wary of what's not offered, though. Alongside the above deals was a 25% discount off food at a Café Rouge restaurant a couple of miles from home, but there

was no mention in the terms and conditions of whether a drink was included. Buy a couple of beers and some wine and the beverages could be the priciest part of your meal, so if your budget is tight, make sure you check what's really included before you sit down. Cafés and restaurants often use vouchercloud as a way of filling empty tables, restricting offers to less popular nights. That often rules out Friday and Saturday, bank holidays, Mother's Day and Valentine's Day, since they're always busy. Fortunately, though, so many big-name brands have signed on with the service that if one is out of bounds, there's a good chance there's a rival close by with some kind of discount.

YOU CAN SORT AVAILABLE DEALS TO FIND THE ONES CLOSEST TO YOU



Above Most discount offers are worthwhile but make sure to check the small print.

Left Some of the UK's biggest names have signed up to offer deals through vouchercloud, making it a genuine saver.

31

RedLaser Barcode Scanner

The digital personal shopper that lets you scan to save **Price Free Works with iPhone, iPod touch**



The true boon of internet shopping isn't so much that you do it

from home and it all arrives at your door: it's the fact you can play off one site against another, comparing nationwide prices and buying from the cheapest.

RedLaser lets you do the same in the real world by scanning the barcode on the back of the book, game or other tagged product that's caught your eye. So long as you've got a Wi-Fi or mobile internet connection, it can search eBay and Google for cheaper deals. The latest update added local search, which uses your location to

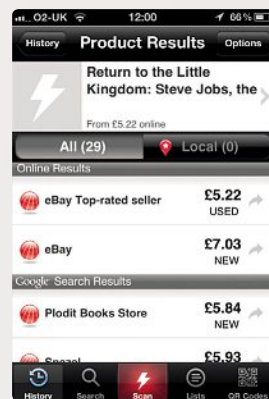
find nearby shops selling the same product at a lower price. Unfortunately, in our tests it failed to find any shops in our area, despite the fact we were testing it in a county town of 150,000 people and a thriving high street. However, in a larger town or city, you shouldn't have problems finding a suitable store.

Try though we might, we had great difficulty finding any products it couldn't identify, unless we resorted to obscure, out-of-date items. Scanning outdated magazines brought up current subscription prices, and when we fed it the code on the back of a book it

pulled up the number, address and website of our two closest libraries. It couldn't tell us there and then whether they had any copies in stock, but it did plot a route to each one, in the Maps app.

On the rare occasion when you can't find a barcode on the product, or it's been covered over by an offer sticker, you can tap in a title or keyword for the item and just search for that. This helped us dig out 19 current prices for an out of print novel published in 1972, ranging from 50p to £10.82.

RedLaser adds a new dimension to online shopping, letting your



eBay is often the cheapest place to buy products found in shops.

browse products on the high-street environment and make real-world savings online. Might it be another nail in the high street's coffin? Perhaps, but the same could be said of most of the apps here. In the meantime, let it help you spend money more wisely.

08 Saver

Avoid pricey support calls with this handy list of alternatives

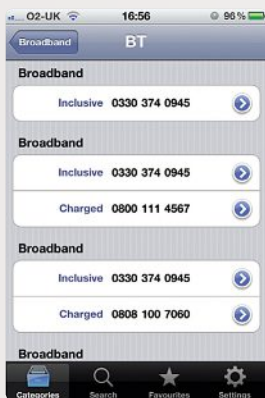
Price **£1.99** Works with **iPhone, iPod touch**



It's a well-known fact that 0800 numbers are rarely included in mobile contracts. Even local-rate 0845 lines are usually charged at far more than the customary 1p per minute. And then there's premium rate...

What's less well known is that most of these numbers are just fronts, which forward your call to a regular landline phone. If you know which number they're forwarded to, you really can call them for free. 08 Saver is a comprehensive directory

of the numbers that these 'free', local and premium-rate lines obscure. It's organised by category, with broadband providers, breakdown services and agencies like your local council neatly corralled into their own sections. The companies themselves are sorted by name, with the various departments set out in each record. So, if you need to call BT, there are separately indexed numbers for broadband, billing and customer services. Indeed, 08 Saver will quickly repay its 69p price.



It's easy to find the right number for just about any 08 service.

The list of alternative numbers is organised in categories.

Groupon

Harness the power of group buying in your local area

Price **Free** Works with **iPhone, iPod touch**



Groupon offers are time-limited deals that expire at the end of each day. Its name comes from GROUP coupon, which gives you an idea how it works. So long as a specified number of people buy into each deal, everyone benefits. If they don't, nobody gets to enjoy it. So keep your eyes peeled and check in daily.

Not only are deals limited by time, but also by location,

so what's available in Lincoln probably won't be in London. The only exceptions to these rules are selected travel deals that offer discounts on hotels and packages which run for several days and are offered nationwide.

There won't be something for everyone every day on Groupon, but it's one of those apps you ought to tap as part of your morning routine, particularly if you like eating out, nights away or trips to the spa.

Skyscanner

Find cheap flights for even less... but it pays to be flexible

Price **Free** Works with **iPhone, iPod touch, iPad**



For those times when you want to get away but don't really care where you go, Skyscanner can prove a great source of inspiration. Grant it access to your location, tell it when you'd like to travel and it'll pick out the best flight deals from your local airport.

We tested it on a Monday afternoon, opting for flights from London that Friday, and it offered up – among

others – Stockholm for £30, Berlin for £34, Derry for £25, Gdansk for £27 and New York for £440. Considering how late we were booking, they were all bargains.

A bar chart shows how the price fluctuates from day to day, so you can move your journey back or forward. Postponing for a couple of days would have got us a New York flight for £300, and clipped the price for Berlin to just £21.

Supermarket

Use weights and prices to work out the best deal, whatever you're buying

Price **69p** Works with **iPhone, iPod touch**



What's cheaper: three packs of value beans for 80p, or seven packs for £1.27? Quickly – there's a queue!

The answer, of course, is that three for 80p is cheaper immediately, but £1.27 for seven is the better option in terms of overall value (it works out at 18.1p versus 26.7p). The question, though, is less whether you

could afford to spend the money on the more expensive beans, and more whether you could afford the time it would take you to complete the weekly shop if you had to do this kind of calculation for every item you bought. Why not just let Supermarket do it instead?

The app supports six currencies (euro, dollar, pound, kronor, franc and rouble), although in truth,

since all currencies have 100 divisions in each major denomination, you can use it worldwide. You can also pick between metric and imperial units to compare mismatched quantities, such as 2lb costing £9.99, with 200g at £1.70. In the real world, it may well save you more time than money, but this app is nonetheless a quick, convenient converter to keep to hand.



Compare weights and prices to find the cheapest deal.

Free App Tracker

See which apps have had their prices pruned, or removed altogether **Price Free Works with iPhone, iPod touch, iPad**



08 Free App Tracker monitors the App Store and picks out paid-for applications with prices that have dropped to zero. Often this is something app developers do temporarily to earn their wares some cheap publicity, so this is by far the simplest way to find them before they shoot back to full price. It works by tracking the US App Store, which means that very

occasionally you may find an app hasn't been reduced in all stores worldwide. Nevertheless, we've found it consistently reliable when hunting for premium apps that have temporarily scuttled their prices on the UK store. Free App Tracker also picks out apps that have recently seen a price drop, but still charge something, and lets you track full-price apps you'd consider if they got discounted in the future.

Kayak

Save your holiday money by spending less on flights and hotels **Price Free Works with iPhone, iPod touch, iPad**



09 The best time to book a flight or hotel is often the very last minute, when airlines and chains are looking to offload unsold seats and beds. Kayak, like Lastminute and Expedia Hotels, plays on this, and has the potential to handily save you some spondoolicks in the process. Tap in where you're going, and when, and it'll pull up the best deals that match your criteria. It's

almost always cheaper booking this way than rolling your suitcase up to a desk and asking about availability – they don't need to know you booked it on the doorstep. There's also an airline directory, airport information (so you know where to find the closest gift shop if you're pushed for time), a currency converter and packing list, which combine to make this a very handy travel assistant.

MyGas

Quickly locate the cheapest option each time you need to fill your car **Price Free Works with iPhone, iPod touch**



10 It's all very well knowing where to find your local petrol station, but what if your dial is in the red when you're far from home? You don't want to refuel by paying exorbitant motorway prices if you can help it, so turn to MyGas, which uses location services to find the closest options for wherever you happen to be. It plots them on a map using branded pushpins, so

you can easily find a particular chain if you're collecting points, have a fuel card that isn't universally accepted, or have an addiction to a particular brand of doughnut or cookie. Tapping a pin calls up the prices for the various fuel types the station sells, with the option to confirm or correct it if you find it doesn't match the forecourt board. You can also specify which fuel your vehicle uses.

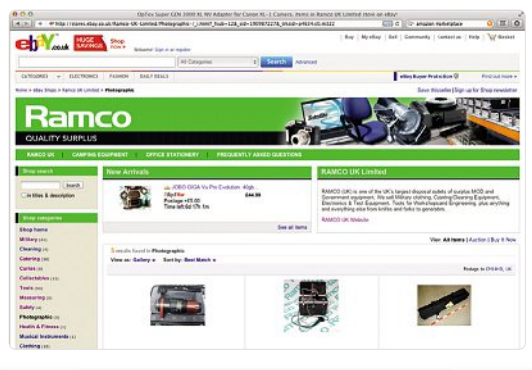
SHOP AROUND

Online megastores

▶ Most of the apps here are geared to on-the-spot shopping, meaning they supplement rather than replace other online options. eBay is still a great place to look for new and refurbished kit – not merely unwanted goods – with big names such as Canon selling stock through their own

outlet stores (stores.ebay.co.uk/canon-outlet) and even the British government offloading surplus through stores like Ramco (stores.ebay.co.uk/ramco-uk-limited).

Check these, alongside Amazon Marketplace and zShops, using either a regular browser, or each site's dedicated app.



YOUR SHOPPING LIST

Must have apps

	Skype	FREE
	vouchercloud	FREE
	RedLaser	FREE
	O8 Saver	£1.99
	Kayak	FREE
	Groupon	FREE
	Skyscanner	FREE
	Free App Tracker	FREE
	Supermarket	69P
	MyGas	FREE
Total: £2.68		

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